UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 29)
20 April 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 29. Crime prevention and criminal justice

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 29, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions were reviewed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its first session in April 1992.

---

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

92-17475 3107f (E) 230492 270492

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 29.1, 29.3, 29.4, 29.7, 29.10 to 29.13, 29.16 to 29.20, 29.23 to 29.27 and 29.30 to 29.32 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

Paragraph 29.1

Insert new paragraph 29.1 as follows and renumber the following paragraphs accordingly:

"29.1 The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, adopted the statement of principles and programme of action recommended by the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. In accordance with these new mandates, the general orientation of the programme will be to assist the international community in meeting its pressing needs in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and to provide States with timely and practical assistance in order to achieve the goals of preventing crime within and among States and of improving the response to crime. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will provide policy guidance to the programme."

Paragraphs 29.1, 29.3, 29.4, 29.7 and 29.10-29.12

Replace existing paragraphs 29.1, 29.3, 29.4, 29.7, 29.10 to 29.12 with the following:

[29.1]

"29.2 Existing mandates for the crime prevention and criminal justice programme are based on a number of declarations, instruments, standards and guidelines endorsed by the General Assembly on the basis of recommendations by the quinquennial United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Growing concern about the escalation of crime, especially in its new forms and transnational dimensions, and increasing government demands for more effective action led to the adoption by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1985) of the Milan Plan of Action, approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 40/32 to 40/36. The Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (1990) adopted a number of instruments which were welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/121. On the recommendation of that Congress, the Assembly adopted a number of model treaties and other recommendations in its resolutions 45/107 to 45/119. It also adopted resolutions 45/122, on criminal justice education, 45/123, on international cooperation in combating organized crime, 45/166, on human rights in the administration of justice, and 46/152, on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme."

[29.3] "29.4 The programme will bring together the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the interregional and regional institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the network of government-appointed national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the global crime and criminal justice information network and the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The programme will be implemented by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna. The programme will provide major substantive input and services for the meetings of the relevant United Nations bodies, that is, six sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (annually 1992-1997) and the Ninth United Nations Congress (1995)."

[29.4] "29.5 The growing internationalization of crime must generate prompt and commensurate responses. Organized crime is exploiting the relaxation of border controls designed to foster legitimate trade and, hence, development. Methods are needed to fight transborder crime, in order to prevent transnational offenders from exploiting loopholes in the various legal systems and the differences between them and to deprive them of their illicit profits, while maintaining the rule of law, guaranteeing due process in every phase of criminal justice and promoting the fundamental principles of good government. A major effort will be made, in this connection, to provide practical assistance to States in undertaking the requisite action to integrate and consolidate their efforts in preventing and combating transnational crime; strengthen their respective national agencies; implement United Nations instruments, norms and guidelines; and promote the highest standards of fairness, humanity, justice and professional conduct."

[29.7] "29.8 Similarly, efforts towards implementation of existing instruments will be enhanced and further consolidated as a cornerstone of more effective practice at the national level, through strengthened international cooperation. Further development and promotion of international instruments will be undertaken, as appropriate, under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice."

[29.10] "29.11 In the implementation of the programme, close collaboration will be maintained with the United Nations Development Programme and the Centre for Human Rights, the Department of Economic and Social Development, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the regional institutes

for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. In addition, coordination with relevant agencies of the United Nations system will be strengthened."

[29.11] "29.12 The programme on crime prevention and criminal justice will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Operational activities, planning and overall coordination

Subprogramme 2. Collaborative action against transnational crime

Subprogramme 3. Crime prevention and criminal justice management

Subprogramme 4. Crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms

These subprogrammes derive from the developments in recent years and the recommendations thereon of United Nations policy-making bodies. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolutions 1988/44, 1989/69, 1990/21 and 1991/15, and the General Assembly in its resolutions 44/71, 44/72, 45/107, 45/121, 45/123 and 46/152 called for intensified international collaboration and practical assistance to Member States, both developing and developed, against forms of criminality transcending national frontiers, including organized and economic crime, since they undermine social and economic institutions and claim increasing numbers of victims. Thus, the product delivery of the various components of the programme will be consolidated and streamlined, with emphasis on operational activities and advisory services. Efforts will also be made to ensure appropriate planning and coordination with relevant agencies and intergovernmental organizations (subprogramme 1). Existing methods of international cooperation against transnational and organized crime will be strengthened and new modalities explored, with the development of mechanisms for joint action on problem of mutual concern (subprogramme 2). Furthermore, the United Nations activities directed at assisting Governments in formulating policy options by conducting research and studies, improving management techniques, promoting implementation of international instruments and standard-setting in priority areas will be continued, under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (subprogrammes 3 and 4)."

[29.12] "29.13 Subprogrammes 1 and 2 are designated high priority."

B. Subprogrammes

Insert a new subprogramme 1 as follows and renumber the following subprogrammes and paragraphs accordingly:

"SUBPROGRAMME 1. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES, PLANNING AND OVERALL COORDINATION

"(a) Objectives

"29.14 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 45/107 and 46/152; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/19, 1990/24, 1991/15 and 1992/1; and Eighth United Nations Congress resolutions 4 and 5.

"29.15 The United Nations has been called upon to create the essential mechanisms for practical collaboration against common problems by setting up a framework for inter-State cooperation and coordination for information exchanges and the provisions of means of assistance, and to establish an adequate resource base for a truly effective programme. Accordingly, existing methods of international cooperation should be reviewed and operational activities, including advisory services and the work of the United Nations associated institutes, should be expanded, integrated and coordinated so as to improve overall planning, implementation and evaluation of future programme activities.

"29.16 The objectives of the subprogramme will be:

"(a) To provide timely and practical assistance to Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, with special emphasis on advisory services, training, exchange of information and innovative pilot and demonstration projects;

"(b) To promote and strengthen technical cooperation in matters connected with crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular with respect to efforts to improve the capability of States to deal with emerging forms of national and transnational criminality;

"(c) To mobilize support for the operational activities of the programme, including fund-raising, by maintaining reliable and effective channels of communication with Governments and integrating the contributions of the interregional and regional institutes in the programme;

"(d) To provide assistance in matters relating to crime prevention and criminal justice to United Nations special missions upon request;

"(e) To coordinate the external relations of the programme, by cooperating with other entities of the United Nations system that carry out activities relevant to the programme and maximizing the contributions of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and of the professional and scientific community;

"(f) To assist the Commission in ensuring effective product delivery, evaluating programme performance and enhancing its impact.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"29.17 Major efforts will focus on the formulation, implementation and evaluation of crime prevention and criminal justice technical cooperation projects, in particular training and education, with the development of requisite material, manuals and curricula, and collaboration with academic institutions and other entities concerned. Emphasis will be given to experimental innovation via pilot and demonstration projects for the upgrading of skills of criminal justice personnel. Assessment of needs, strategic planning of programme activities and evaluation of product delivery will be regularly undertaken, so as to enable the Commission to monitor the progress achieved and review the overall impact of the programme.

"29.18 Advisory services and operational activities will be increased and new sources of funding will be identified, by maintaining direct contacts with Governments, the United Nations Development Programmme, as well as other funding agencies and the private sector. The work of the interregional and regional institutes will be fully integrated into the programme, as well as that of government-appointed national correspondents and other associated institutions promoting United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice policy. Overall coordination of programme activities will be exercised by the Secretariat in order to avoid duplication of efforts and disparity of approaches, also by strengthening the clearing-house and information exchange functions."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. COLLABORATIVE ACTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

Paragraph 29.13 (new para. 29.19) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/107, 45/115 to 45/118, 45/121, 45/123 and 46/152.

Paragraphs 29.16 and 29.17 (new paras. 29.22 and 29.23) — Replace paragraphs 29.16 and 29.17 with the following:

[29.16] "29.22 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

"(a) To strengthen regional and international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating crime, particularly in its most dangerous transnational dimensions, and to improve criminal justice administration by encouraging and responding to initiatives taken by Member States to promote concerted action;

"(b) To assist Member States in integrating and consolidating their efforts to prevent and combat transnational crime and to promote the fundamental principles of maintenance of the rule of law, sound public administration and good governance;

"(c) To elaborate effective strategies and practical arrangements for collaboration among the services concerned in preventing and controlling particularly noxious forms of criminality, such as organized crime, drug-trafficking, corruption, terrorism, environmental offences, including dumping of toxic waste, crimes against the cultural patrimony, money laundering, fraudulent operations and other serious economic crimes;

"(d) To help put into effect international strategies, model treaties and agreements designed to promote and facilitate the collaboration of States in criminal justice matters, including the elaboration of model legislation, and to formulate strategies, under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, that would consolidate action and enhance efforts aimed at transborder crime prevention and control.

[29.17]

"29.23 The General Assembly adopted several instruments designed to strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters (model treaties on mutual juridical assistance and on extradition, model agreements on the transfer of criminal proceedings and on the transfer of supervision of foreign offenders). Promotion and implementation of these instruments will receive primary attention."

Paragraph 29.18
(new para. 29.24)

Replace the second sentence with the following:

"At the same time, the Eighth Congress, with its theme of 'International cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice for the twenty-first century', called for the development of new types of practical modalities to facilitate the collaboration of the various services concerned in dealing with problems of mutual concern."

Paragraph 29.19
(new para. 29.25)

Replace paragraph 29.19 with the following:

"29.25 The Secretariat will, therefore, collect and disseminate information designed to assist Governments in identifying the most serious crimes of a transnational nature, their patterns, extent, impact and ramifications, as a basis for action against those posing a common threat; promote the implementation of existing instruments; and foster increased reliance on model treaties and agreements for international cooperation, as

well as other practical arrangements for collaboration against transborder crimes at the international, regional, subregional and bilateral levels. In this context, advice will be provided to countries requesting it on modernization of legislation and procedures, tailored to different legal systems, cultures, traditions and special needs, including the elaboration of model laws and other prototypes."

SUBPROGRAMME 3. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT

Paragraph 29.20 (new para. 29.26) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/109 to 45/114, 45/121 and 46/152 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/18, 1990/20 and 1990/24.

Paragraph 29.23 (new para. 29.29) — Replace paragraph 29.23 with the following:

"29.29 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

"(a) To further action-oriented research addressed at the formulation of national policies and programmes for the prevention and control of criminality as part of economic and social policy development;

"(b) To promote consistent, cost-effective, fair and humane crime prevention and criminal justice policies through the application of modern management techniques and recent advances in science and technology, including the use of computers;

"(c) To increase the awareness of Governments, especially their planning offices, of the importance to include crime prevention elements in national development plans and for ongoing collaboration with criminal justice agencies;

"(d) To provide advice on upgrading criminal justice statistical capabilities in order to permit data collection and analysis for rational decision-making, and increase public awareness of the social, economic and other costs of crime;

"(e) To provide an empirical basis for national and international efforts at crime prevention and control, by analysing crime trends, reporting on the measures taken and determining the areas of priority concern;

"(f) To develop and maintain a global criminal justice and crime prevention information network with a view to exchanging policy recommendations and research findings;

"(g) To encourage the responsiveness of crime prevention and criminal justice policies to local needs and traditions, utilizing indigenous mechanisms and community participation."

Paragraph 29.24 (new para. 29.30) — Replace the second sentence with the following:

"The fourth and subsequent world crime surveys will provide the principal sources of data for policy development."

Paragraph 29.25 (new para. 29.31) — Replace the last sentence with the following:

"Special emphasis will be placed on the promotion of collaborative initiatives between national planners and crime prevention specialists, including computerization of criminal justice administration and information, with a view to exchanging and disseminating policy recommendations and research findings."

Paragraph 29.26 (new para. 29.32) — Replace paragraph 29.26 with the following:

"29.32 On the basis of the assessment of criminal justice policies and needs derived from the periodical United Nations crime surveys, further areas for reform will be identified, leading to the preparation of manuals for a more effective criminal justice system management. The application of an integrated approach, permitting the subsystems of criminal justice to operate in harmony with each other, will be furthered to achieve greater efficiency and fairness, as will the application of new developments in science and technology, particularly the appropriate use of computers. Means of stimulating the regular generation of data, as a by-product of the system's operations and as a tool in decision-making, will be pursued, with emphasis on the development of data banks and information networks, facilitating comparative analysis and collaborative technical cooperation activities. Information collected in the course of those activities will be widely disseminated, nationally and internationally, to various segments of the criminal justice constituency, as well as the international community at large."

SUBPROGRAMME 4. CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND NORMS

Paragraph 29.27 (new para. 29.33) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/110, 45/112, 45/113, 45/115, 45/121, 45/166, 46/120 and 46/152 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/21, 1990/22 and 1990/29.

Paragraph 29.30 (new para. 29.36)

At the end of subparagraph (d), add ", particularly children and juveniles, under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

Paragraph 29.31 (new para. 29.37)

Replace the second and last sentences respectively with the following:

"There are now about 20 United Nations instruments that require effective implementation, and their number has almost doubled in recent years."

"Special initiatives will be taken to familiarize criminal justice personnel with the United Nations standards and guidelines, making them available in a consolidated form, through a compendium."

Paragraph 29.32 (new para. 29.38)

Replace paragraph 29.32 with the following:

"29.38 Standard-setting may also be undertaken, as necessary, under the guidance of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and in accordance with the recommendations of United Nations policy-making bodies. The new areas requiring standard-setting that have been identified in the above-mentioned recommendations include, inter alia, the status and protection of the human rights of prisoners and detainees, curtailing pre-trial detention, treatment of life-sentence prisoners, prison education, abolishing or decreasing the use of capital punishment, application of science and technology to crime prevention and criminal justice, and of informal social control mechanisms, such as mediation and conflict resolution, as a complement or alternative to criminal justice."

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 30)
27 April 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 30, Regional cooperation for development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1.

---

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the completed revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

92-18231 3383b (E) 290492 010592

/...

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 30.1, 30.14 to 30.16, 30.19, 30.20, 30.22, 30.25, 30.27, 30.59 to 30.64, 30.66, 30.67, 30.72, 30.74 to 30.76, 30.81, 30.82, 30.86, 30.88, 30.90, 30.106, 30.108, 30.111, 30.120, 30.123, 30.126, 30.136 and 30.140.

A. Programme

Paragraph 30.1	Delete the reference to General Assembly resolution 43/27 and add General Assembly resolutions 45/178, 45/199 and 46/151.
Paragraph 30.14	For Subprogramme 7. Social development read Subprogramme 7. Social and human resources development
Paragraph 30.15	Add subprogramme 7 to subprogrammes with high-priority designation.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

Paragraph 30.16	Delete the reference to General Assembly resolutions 40/100, 42/54 and 44/57 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/51, 1987/48, 1989/72 and 1989/120 and add General Assembly resolution 42/199.
Paragraphs 30.19, 30.20, 30.22 and 30.25	Delete paragraphs 30.19, 30.20, 30.22 and 30.25 and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Paragraph 30.27 (new para. 30.23)	Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 46/145 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/76, 1991/82 and 1991/303.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Title of subprogramme	For Social development read Social and human resources development
Paragraph 30.59 (new para. 30.55)	Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 42/54, 44/57, 45/86, 45/87, 46/90, 46/96 and 46/143, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/48, 1989/72 and 1989/120 and Commission resolutions 644 (XXIII) and 713 (XXVI).

Paragraph 30.60 (new paras. 30.56 and 30.57)

Add a new paragraph 30.60 as follows and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"30.56 The recognition that sustained development and transformation in the African region requires an integrated approach and effective interplay between economic factors and social and human dimensions points to the need for policy analysis, research and information exchange on issues and problems of social development as they interact with other development issues in order to formulate and implement relevant social policy measures and programmes. Poverty alleviation as well as social progress and well-being also necessitate an integrated approach, particularly as regards the rural population and vulnerable groups, with a focus on equity, social justice and popular participation."

Replace old paragraph 30.60 with the following:

"30.57 Available data show that youth unemployment, underemployment, illiteracy, rural-urban migration, worsening conditions of vulnerable groups, juvenile delinquency and rising crime, including drug abuse and illicit trafficking, are posing a serious treat to the economic and social well-being of African countries."

Paragraph 30.61 (new para. 30.58)

Replace paragraph 30.61 with the following:

"30.58 Another crucial issue facing African countries is the need for coherent planning, development and utilization of human resources. The problem is rooted in inadequate educational and training systems as well as inadequacies in effective human resources and employment planning, which have hampered the contribution that human resources could make to economic growth and socio-economic development."

Paragraphs 30.62 and 30.63

Delete paragraphs 30.62 and 30.63 and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 30.64

Add a new subparagraph (c) as follows:

"(c) The identification, analysis and research of social development issues and problems as a basis for social planning within the context of overall development planning, and for the formulation of appropriate social policies and strategies as well as an integrated approach to social progress through equity, social justice and popular participation, with a focus on the rural population".

Add a new subparagraph (d) as follows:

"(d) The promotion of the effective development of human resources necessary for accelerated economic and social development in all sectors of the national economy and for strengthening capabilities for human resources planning, development and utilization as a basis for optimizing the contribution of human resources to development."

After paragraph 30.66 (new para. 30.61) — Add a new paragraph as follows at the end of (b) Course of action of the secretariat and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"30.62 The ECA secretariat will also assist member States in planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating human resources development and utilization by conducting and organizing, on the basis of related studies, training workshops, seminars and conferences at national, subregional and regional levels for senior government officials and personnel from the private and parastatal sectors, providing advisory services to member States on manpower and employment planning, assisting them in strengthening their institutional machinery for human resources development and utilization, and evaluating education and training programmes."

SUBPROGRAMME 8. ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Paragraph 30.67 (new para. 30.63) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 44/171.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Paragraph 30.72 (new para. 30.68) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 44/228 and Commission resolution 712 (XXVI)

After paragraph 30.74 (new para. 30.70) — Add a new paragraph as follows at the end of (a) Objectives and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"30.71. The subprogramme will also identify strategies to be coordinated regionally for concerted action to deal with major environmental issues in the socio-economic development processes of African countries within a particular time-frame. Such strategies will be aimed at examining the relationship between environmental degradation and the structure of the international economic environment, combating poverty and recommending modalities for access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies."

Paragraph 30.75 (new para. 30.72) — At the end of the first sentence, insert the following sentence:

"Follow-up activities based on directions outlined by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will also be undertaken at the regional level."

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Paragraph 30.76 (new para. 30.73) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 43/181 and 46/163

Paragraph 30.81 (new para. 30.78) — At the end of subparagraph (b) insert "necessary for the implementation of shelter strategies and programmes of the region".

At the end of subparagraph (c) insert "providing inputs to the global database on human settlements".

Add a new subparagraph (e) as follows:

"(e) Assisting member States in policy research of shelter and development issues and in exchange of information on programming, financing, production and maintenance of shelter."

SUBPROGRAMME 11. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Paragraph 30.82 (new para. 30.79) — Add a reference to General Assembly decision 46/458 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/81.

Paragraph 30.86 (new para. 30.83) — At the end of the paragraph, insert the following text:

"Activities in the field of basic industries will include the provision of technical advisory services and assistance in the identification, preparation, appraisal and promotion of subregional projects. Follow-up activities on implementation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa programme will include organizing consultation and negotiation meetings among member States and relevant technological, development and financial institutions to discuss and to take decisions on project development, mobilizing resources and promoting investment."

SUBPROGRAMME 12. TRADE DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Paragraph 30.88 (new para. 30.85) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 45/210 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/76.

Paragraph 30.90 (new para. 30.87) — Add a new subparagraph as follows:

"(c) To examine the regional situation and future trends regarding the relation between environmental issues and international trade."

SUBPROGRAMME 15. NATURAL RESOURCES

Paragraph 30.106 (new para. 30.103) — Replace subparagraph (a) with the following:

"(a) Improving their knowledge of mineral resources endowment and strengthening multi-country cooperative mechanisms for mineral development and utilization".

Paragraph 30.108 (new para. 30.105) — At the end of the paragraph, insert the following sentence:

"Advisory services and technical support will be extended to member States and multinational mineral resources development institutes."

SUBPROGRAMME 16. ENERGY, INCLUDING NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Paragraph 30.111 (new para. 30.108) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 45/209.

SUBPROGRAMME 18. POPULATION

Paragraph 30.120 (new para. 30.117) — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 44/228 and 45/216 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/92.

Paragraph 30.123 (new para. 30.120) — Add a new subparagraph as follows:

"(c) To coordinate at the regional level issues addressing the relationship between demographic pressures and sustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation."

SUBPROGRAMME 19. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Paragraph 30.126 (new para. 30.123) — Add a reference to General Assembly decision 46/456 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/83 and ECA resolution 710 (XXVI).

SUBPROGRAMME 21. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

Paragraph 30.136 (new para. 30.133) — Add a reference to ECA resolution 683 (XXV).

Paragraph 30.140
(new para. 30.137)

In the second line, after "in the region", insert "as detailed in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s and in the strategy for its implementation,".

In lines 5 and 6 of subparagraph (b), replace "integrated computer-based systems of economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics" with "national statistical databases".

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 30)/Corr.1
11 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 30. Regional cooperation for development in Africa

Corrigendum

1. The following text modifies paragraphs 30.15, 30.46, 30.49, 30.50 and 30.81 of A/45/6/Rev.1 and paragraphs 30.62 and 30.63 proposed for deletion in A/47/6 (Prog. 30).

A. Programme

Paragraph 30.15 Add subprogramme 8 to subprogrammes with high-priority designation.

---

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 5. LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Paragraph 30.46 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 45/206.

Paragraphs 30.49 and 30.50 (new paras. 30.45 and 30.46) — Replace the existing text with the following:

"30.45 In-depth studies of the economies of the least developed, land-locked, semi-land-locked and island countries in Africa as a group will continue to be undertaken by the ECA secretariat. Technical advisory services will also be provided to the members of the Commission, upon request, to assist the least developed, land-locked and island countries in Africa in formulating plans and programmes on the basis of appropriate methodologies. Technical cooperation projects will be identified and submitted to donors for funding.

"30.46 The institutional arrangements for assistance in the formulation of strategies and approaches, monitoring, follow-up and review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990 will also be continued."

SUBPROGRAMME 7. SOCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Paragraphs 30.62 and 30.63 (new paras. 30.59 and 30.60) — Reinstate paragraphs 30.62 and 30.63, which were proposed for deletion in A/47/6 (Prog. 30), as follows and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"30.59 In the traditional African family, the elderly enjoy and are accorded a privileged position in society. The process of modernization, however, manifested by such factors as urbanization, industrialization, rising rates of rural-urban migration, changing social structures and the advent of the nuclear family, is gradually transforming the unique position of the elderly in society. At the same time, little is known about the demographic, social and economic status of the steadily growing elderly population in African countries.

"30.63 The rising rates of crime, both conventional and non-conventional, pose a serious threat to the economic and social well-being of African countries. Besides, impairing the quality of life, crime interferes and even nullifies some of Africa's hard-won development gains."

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Paragraph 30.81 (new para. 30.80) — For new subparagraph (e) read new subparagraph (d)

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 31)
7 May 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revised programme 31, Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific, replaces the narrative of programme 31 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revised programme was reviewed by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its forty-eighth session.

---

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

92-19386 3164g (E) 130592

130592

/...

4. Because of the new structure proposed, necessitating extensive revisions, the complete text is presented below, replacing the narrative of programme 31 in document A/45/6/Rev.1 in its entirety. While subprogrammes 1 to 3 are entirely new and reflect the thematic approach adopted by the Commission at its forty-seventh session, subprogrammes 4 to 6 are, with some revisions, the continuation of existing subprogrammes. To facilitate review of the revised programme, the annex lists paragraphs from the current programme 31 that have not been substantially revised.

Programme 31. Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
A.	Programme	31.1 - 31.12	4
	1. General orientation	31.1 - 31.7	4
	2. Overall strategy	31.8 - 31.11	5
	3. Subprogramme structure and priorities	31.12	6
B.	Subprogrammes	31.13 - 31.82	7
	1. Regional economic cooperation	31.13 - 31.23	7
	2. The environment and sustainable development	31.24 - 31.39	12
	3. Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development	31.40 - 31.52	16
	4. Transport and communications	31.53 - 31.60	20
	5. Statistics	31.61 - 31.71	22
	6. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries	31.72 - 31.82	24

PROGRAMME 31. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Programme

1. General orientation

31.1 The legislative authority for programme 31 derives from the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session (resolution 37 (IV)) and as amended by the Council at its subsequent sessions, and ESCAP resolution 47/3.

31.2 The Commission formulates policies, programmes and strategies for the overall economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific region and provides inputs for the global policy-making processes of the organization. The Commission's subsidiary bodies review its substantive activities during their regular sessions and make recommendations to the Commission for its consideration and endorsement. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission provides a consultative link between the secretariat of ESCAP and the members and associate members of the Commission.

31.3 The Commission's activities are based on priorities and opportunities for programme linkages in the context of the medium-term plan so as to establish complementarity, avoid unnecessary duplication and thus make the most effective use of available resources. The programmes of the medium-term plan are regularly reviewed by the concerned United Nations bodies in compliance with the procedures of prior consultation in order to ensure a fully integrated approach to the implementation, at the regional level, of priority policies and programmes.

31.4 Revision of the medium-term plan's programme structure follows the adoption of resolution 47/3 by the Commission at its forty-seventh session, held at Seoul in April 1991, and subsequent modifications endorsed by the Meeting of Senior Officials on the Intergovernmental Structure Subsidiary to the Commission, held at Bangkok in January 1992. These decisions are the culmination of a series of activities mandated by the Commission, beginning with resolution 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980 and aimed at streamlining the conference structure and increasing the ability of the Commission to respond to the changing situation and priority needs of the region. The proposed subsidiary structure comprises: (a) three thematic committees: the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation and its Steering Committee; the Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development; and the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development; (b) two other committees: the Committee on Transport and Communications and the Committee on Statistics; and (c) two special bodies: on Least Developed and Land-locked Developing Countries, and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

31.5 Not only the adoption of the thematic approach and the streamlined conference structure, but also rapid and fundamental changes in the political, economic and social relations among regional States and between the ESCAP region and other parts of the world in the past two years have necessitated a complete rethinking of regional priorities and the role of ESCAP in the

-4-

region. The changing needs and priorities of the region that have guided the substance of the proposed subprogrammes are rapprochement between the super-Powers, which has generally led to reduction of regional conflicts and the trend towards political stability and the desire for speedy recovery; transition of several centrally planned economies in the region to the market economy, including the newly independent central Asian republics, some of which will become members of ESCAP; domestic and global demands for economic growth with equity; growing interest by developing countries of the region in learning from the experiences of more advanced countries; appearance of regional economic blocs and the potential threat of growing protectionism and discriminatory terms of trade; the need for strengthening intraregional trade and investment; and the increasingly prominent role of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in development.

31.6 The transitional economies of the region appear to be specially interested in forging greater links with other countries whose past economic development experience would be useful to them. Since most of the transitional economies seem prepared to open up their economies for foreign trade and investment, new economic complementarities are likely to emerge in the region, further strengthening the momentum for regional economic cooperation. They will require considerable inflows of foreign capital and technical assistance in order to effect the kinds of restructuring, reforms and reconstruction that will enable them to have sustained growth. Given their urgent needs, the development requirements of this group of countries remain largely unmet. There is, therefore, considerable need for mobilizing further assistance both at the regional and international levels in favour of the transitional economies of the ESCAP region.

31.7 The proposed revisions to programme 31 and its related subprogrammes are oriented to the requirement of rapidly changing socio-economic conditions and the emerging development needs of Asia and the Pacific, sharpening its analytical focus on critical and urgent problems of the developing countries of the region. The solution to and amelioration of these problems require structural changes in work method and integrated approaches to programme formulation and implementation as well as rational use of resources. The thematic approach to programming and multidisciplinary teamwork will be applied to achieve the plan's objectives.

2. Overall strategy

31.8 The programme will be implemented by the secretariat of ESCAP. The Commission will continue to provide a forum in which the aspirations of members and associate members for economic and social development are articulated, and where policies and actions are designed to respond to new challenges and opportunities. Efforts will be continued to implement the mandates of the Commission, drawing in particular on the advantages of the Commission as the main catalytic and coordinating body for regional action, and on its multidisciplinary capabilities. These advantages will be strengthened further through the adoption of the thematic approach to the multifaceted development issues of the region, and operational modalities designed to promote intraregional cooperation, in conjunction, as appropriate, with subregional groupings and regional intergovernmental organizations. In achieving the plan's objectives, the secretariat strategy will emphasize

complementarity and harmonization of its activities internally through the organizing of areas of work into thematically related subprogrammes and externally through close communication with the above-mentioned bodies, other regional commissions and programmes of the United Nations.

31.9 The ongoing efforts to liberalize international and intraregional trade will be promoted increasingly in order to facilitate the flow of goods and services, investment, technology and labour. Arrangements will be made to facilitate information exchange and technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, and between them and developed countries. To this end, existing relationships between ESCAP and other entities, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations active in the region, will be further examined and expanded.

31.10 Countries in transition to the market economy, particularly the central Asian republics of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, face special problems that need urgent attention. In view of the fact that ESCAP was already involved in assisting some of the member countries going through this transition, and in expectation of other countries in a similar situation joining ESCAP, the Commission will continue to organize special fact-finding missions, provide advisory services, training and assistance in policy and plan formulation, as well as engage in technical cooperation among developing countries activities for these countries.

31.11 Coordination with other United Nations bodies takes place through various means, such as the establishment of formal arrangements, including special task forces in specific fields, and in that context various cooperative and joint activities are planned in substantive areas. Other means of coordination include participation in inter-agency meetings and cost-sharing in joint activities at the regional, subregional and national levels.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

31.12 In the light of that orientation, the programme of ESCAP will consist of the following subprogrammes, of which subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 are designated high priority:

Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation

Subprogramme 2. The environment and sustainable development

Subprogramme 3. Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Subprogramme 4. Transport and communications

Subprogramme 5. Statistics

Subprogramme 6. Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

(a) Objectives

31.13 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Commission resolutions 235 (XL), 256 (XLII), 274 (XLIV), 47/1 and 47/2; the ESCAP Plan of Action on Technology for Development (E/ESCAP/398, annex) adopted by the Commission at its fortieth session; and reports of the Commission (E/1980/26-E/ESCAP/188, paras. 467, 469, 470 and 473; E/1987/34-E/ESCAP/590, paras. 290, 291 and 294; E/1988/35-E/ESCAP/644, para. 180; E/1989/33-E/ESCAP/693, paras. 170 and 182-192; E/1990/40-E/ESCAP/748, para. 248; and E/1991/35-E/ESCAP/822, paras. 221 and 314).

31.14 Momentous changes are occurring in the region and on the world scene that are likely to give added impetus to regional economic cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region. A primary aim of the activities in this subprogramme will therefore be to analyse the emerging trends towards greater complementarity and interdependence among countries in the region, with a view to evolving an effective implementation of policies that would take advantage of growing opportunities for mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation. A key objective would be to ensure that the trend towards liberalization and openness and the growing desire on the part of countries in the region to improve relations and economic ties among themselves is translated into accelerating the pace of economic and social progress in the Asian and Pacific region. Increasing regional interdependence has, in fact, created several structural problems that need to be addressed in a concerted manner. These problems include the reduction of imbalances in trade, adjustments to more open and competitive markets and efforts to stimulate new patterns of growth. Moreover, several centrally planned economies in the region are making a transition to a market economy. In the process, there will be disruption in the regional pattern of trade and investment. Regional cooperation can assist in directing these changes into a positive rather than a negative sum game.

31.15 At the global level, a trend towards protecting national interests through a proliferation of discriminatory trade alliances and regional groupings and by raising barriers against competitive exporters is discernible in the emerging trade environment. Increasing competition from the newly industrializing economies and from emerging newly industrializing economies, particularly in the area of export of manufactures in the moderate technology sector, on the one hand, and from low-income developing countries with labour-intensive products, on the other, has led many countries to heighten their trade barriers on exports from their competitors. Developed countries are also increasingly demanding reciprocity in trade relations from developing countries, which is more clearly visible in the existing policies on the generalized system of preferences. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations could have a profound effect on the trade prospects of developing countries of the region by conferring both new opportunities and new responsibilities for the conduct of international trade, but its outcome is still uncertain and many countries are still exploring alternative arrangements for promoting their national interests. Expansion of international trade through the maintenance of free and open markets and the

enhancement of value addition in exports will be a key instrument for the growth of both the export-led and other economies of the region in order to accelerate the momentum of economic development. Host countries will continue to need expertise during the 1990s in the structuring of appropriate foreign investment regimes and fair and equitable joint venture arrangements. A key challenge is to devise foreign investment policies that strike the right balance between facilitation and regulation. The intraregional flow of investment will continue to increase and joint ventures will be among the increasingly favoured newer types of foreign direct investment.

31.16 Moreover, as concerns for unemployment, poverty alleviation, urban congestion, energy crisis and environmental degradation reach unprecedented levels, industrial and technological development emerge as key policy variables in ensuring growth with equity and sustainability. The general trend of decreasing commodity prices and the inability of the agricultural sector to provide employment to the region's fast-growing population, coupled with problems in arresting environmental degradation, further reinforces the role of industrial and technological development as a crucial element in any development strategy. Furthermore, the fast pace of technological change and the increasing application of new and emerging technologies have resulted in altering the production processes in all sectors, but especially more so in industrial activities, which require reorientation in assistance programmes rendered by international organizations. It is, therefore, not only desirable but necessary that taking all the above-mentioned concerns into account, Asian and Pacific developing countries should endeavour to find innovative approaches for strengthening industrialization and the upgrading and diversification of technology to withstand external shocks. The prescriptions contained in the Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific (1984), the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific (1991) and the outcome of the deliberations at the ESCAP Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology (1992) will continue to provide guidelines for further industrial and technological development in the region during the plan period.

31.17 In the light of the above, the objective of the subprogramme on regional economic cooperation will be to increase the technical capacity of developing countries in their efforts:

(a) To sustain the momentum of growth and development in the region without aggravating intraregional income disparities;

(b) To seek solutions to the problems arising from the growing economic interdependence of countries in the region;

(c) To manage the smooth transition to a market economy for the centrally planned economies in the region and facilitate the eventual inclusion of these economies in transition in multilateral trade systems and in regional division of labour;

(d) To restructure their economies in line with the new international division of labour;

(e) Accelerate the pace of social and economic progress and the structural transformation of their economies;

(f) Expand value-added trade, trade in manufactures, expand intraregional trade, merchandise and invisible trade;

(g) Mobilize resources for trade-related investments with particular emphasis on improvement of accessibility to export finance for small and medium-scale exporters in the developing countries;

(h) Adopt new technologies associated with the automatic system for customs data and the United Nations electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport;

(i) Operate effectively in the trade environment expected to emerge from the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

(j) Withstand negative effects of proliferation of discriminatory trade policies, alliances, regional groupings and other barriers against competitive exporters;

(k) Improve the trade performance of the land-locked, least developed and island developing countries to revitalize their economic development;

(l) Integrate industrial activities at the regional and global levels;

(m) Promote entrepreneurship, employment in rural areas and women's participation in industry and technology;

(n) Accelerate industrialization through the enhancement of technological capabilities for meeting competitively the domestic demand as well as for exports of manufactured products;

(o) Strengthen infrastructural facilities for technological development, including human resources development;

(p) Adapt, inter alia, to new and emerging technologies;

(q) Develop and promote agro-based, agro-allied industries and other small and medium-scale industries, with particular focus on poverty alleviation.

31.18 ESCAP will also aim at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the problems and issues to be addressed, particularly in relation to value-added trade, trade regimes for manufactures, the potential for trade expansion in manufactures, investment opportunities, joint ventures, new sectors with high trade potential, including services, and financial requirements for the promotion of trade and trade-related investments.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.19 In order to increase the knowledge and understanding of problems and issues addressed in this subprogramme, analyses of regional economic and social trends will be undertaken and published in the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific as a basis for selection of themes and courses of action by the thematic committee for regional economic cooperation. In addition, the secretariat will undertake additional in-depth studies to

facilitate the enhancement or strengthening of the scope of regional economic cooperation. Furthermore, the secretariat intends to strengthen the statistical base of information on economic and social development trends and the analytical sophistication to enable it to forecast more accurately the major developments in the global and regional economy and their implications for regional economic cooperation. In view of the region's diversity, greater attention will be directed towards the adoption of a differentiated approach in analysing the situation of specific groups of countries, while making every effort to identify common trends and emerging convergence of the underlying process of growth, policies and economic interests. An important part of the work will be the development, collection and dissemination of major economic aggregates and social indicators in order to facilitate analysis of regional economic and social trends. Emphasis would be given to improving the time-series of economic and social data and increasing the timeliness of the aggregates and indicators.

31.20 In the field of international and intraregional trade, research studies and training will be undertaken with a view to: (a) responding to the uncertainties of the prevailing external environment by appropriate adjustments at both the trade policy and trade promotion levels; (b) diversifying exports by a more pronounced shift from trade intensiveness in natural resources and commodities towards trade intensiveness in intermediate and higher technology; (c) improving access to new and emerging markets as a result of changes in the legal and business environment in many countries following adoption of market-oriented reforms; (d) strengthening existing regional mechanisms, including the Bangkok Agreement, the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, and investigating the modalities for increased links between economic groupings in the region, promoting cooperation among the region's chambers of commerce and industry and entrepreneurs, with a view to increasing intraregional trade; and (e) improving cost-effective techniques of trade promotion through information and trade facilitating measures, including the strengthening of measures for human resources development. Harmonization, coverage and timeliness of trade statistics will be improved and software packages and trade statistics databases will be prepared.

31.21 In the field of investment flows, joint ventures and development finance, meetings and consultations will be organized to facilitate effective interactions among representatives of the members and associate members of ESCAP, subregional groups, the private sector, donor countries and financial institutions within and outside the region to increase the flow of investment and development finance into the region through such measures as promotion of joint ventures, capital investment, transfer of technology and financing of development activities on preferential terms. An in-depth review of trends and the potential for strengthening regional cooperation in this important area will be undertaken. Priority will be given to the enhancement of investment flows and development finance to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. Up-to-date and comparable statistical data on investment flows and development finance will be published. Special attention will also be given to ensure that the studies and activities undertaken will keep in view the environmental and social concerns as well as the problems faced by joint ventures in the region's countries that are in transition to a market economy.

31.22 In the field of industrial and technological development, activities will focus on: (a) regional support measures for effective industrial restructuring in the developing countries of the region, taking into account the recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology and the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific; (b) strategies to promote regional complementarities in industrial activities leading ultimately to improved competitiveness of manufacturing and regional integration among economies; (c) new and innovative measures to promote domestic and foreign investments for industrialization; (d) promotion of joint ventures and intraregional trade of manufactured outputs; (e) sharing of experience and facilities in industrial and technological human resources development; (f) examination of crucial factors for safeguarding the sustainability of industrial and technological development, including environmental protection and efficient resource utilization; (g) improved and efficient mechanisms for the transfer, adaptation and upgrading of technology; (h) assessment, introduction and support of appropriate technology, including new and emerging technology; and (i) support to regional institutions such as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery. Through analytical studies, workshops, seminars and intergovernmental meetings, the secretariat will evolve new and innovative measures, policy options and strategies for institution-building for the promotion of industrial and technological development in members and associate members of ESCAP, especially the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries and those in transition to a market economy. Particular attention will be paid to the implications of industrial restructuring and technological development for poverty alleviation, industrial capacity-building and efficiency in resource utilization. Measures will be devised and implemented within the framework of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Assistance will be provided through activities aimed at the development and application of information technology in the government sector, the conduct of research on and training exercises in topics of interest, and the development of methodologies for the sustainability of the industrial and technological development processes.

31.23 Cooperation among subregional groups and organizations in the ESCAP region, such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the South Pacific Commission and the Forum Secretariat will be supported as building blocks for strengthening cooperation in the region as a whole. Through the organization of meetings and in-depth studies, interaction among the subregional groups will be promoted to enhance regional cooperation with a view to accelerating the pace of social and economic progress and the structural transformation of the Asian and Pacific economies. A publication of subregional data profiles and improved intercountry comparability of data will be issued to reflect major trends in the area of cooperation among regional groups; efforts will also be directed towards strengthening links between the dynamic economies of the region and the least developed and island developing countries, with a view to bringing them into the mainstream of regional development.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

31.24 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/158, paragraph 8, 42/186, 42/187, 43/18, 44/46, paragraphs 9, 14, and 15, and 45/72, paragraphs 8, 13, and 14; resolution VIII of the United Nations Water Conference; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68, 1979/70, 1981/80, 1981/81, 1985/49, 1987/9 and 1987/57; Commission resolutions 267 (XLIV), 45/5, 47/7 and 47/8; and the reports of the Commission (E/1987/34-E/ESCAP/590, paras. 373, 381, 382 and 385-387; E/1988/35-E/ESCAP/644, paras. 365, 368, 374, 379, 380, 382 and 412-442; E/1989/33-E/ESCAP/693, paras. 317-319, 321, 326-328 and 381-412; E/1990/40-E/ESCAP/748, paras. 306 and 322-369, and E/1991/35-E/ESCAP/822, paras. 315-321, 364 and 489-524). Activities under this subprogramme will also be guided by the decisions of the United Nations International Conference on Water and the Environment, the Second United Nations Conference on Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development.

31.25 With regard to policies and plans to ensure environmentally sound and sustainable development, it is essential that countries begin to undertake the necessary action for maintaining or improving the environment for future generations before it is too late or too costly to do so, and ensure that the protection of the environment is viewed as an integral part of the development process. Economic growth, rising population pressure and urbanization have had a serious impact on the environment of the region, threatening to negate the real economic progress that has been made.

31.26 The principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development should guide the formulation of policies and plans for all sectors of economies to ensure the protection and improvement of the environment. The lack of such policies has led to continuous deterioration of the environment. Expertise and technologies are particularly inadequate in developing countries of the region for enabling the implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable development policies and strategies. The environment in the Asian and Pacific region is facing serious threats owing to rapid land degradation, deforestation, watershed degradation, soil erosion, soil nutrient loss, waterlogging, salination, toxification of soils, unhealthy village and urban environments, and the pollution of air, lakes, rivers and seas, thus affecting severely the resources and amenities provided by nature.

31.27 Natural resources development and management will face increasing challenges in the 1990s because of the scarcity and indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, the rapid population growth in the region and ever-increasing pressure on the environment. There is a growing need for accelerated assessment of natural resources in order to establish the total resource base for economic development. The base of sustainable economic development in developing countries lies in their natural resources. Improved information on these resources will reduce the uncertainty in decision-making. Developing geo-information techniques to address such information needs have, therefore, become an essential issue. In many countries of the region, a considerable amount of the water resources is not

utilized properly owing to lack of national plans and programmes for sustainable and environmentally sound water resources development and management or incompatibility of existing plans and programmes with national economic and social development plans.

31.28 In the area of energy development and management, developing countries will still require large inputs of energy in support of their economic and social development plans. Recent regional and global concerns over vulnerability to oil price changes and high intensities of energy consumption and its possible long-term environmental impact have highlighted the need to formulate suitable policies to increase the efficiency of energy use. The major problems lie in the inadequate management of the energy sector owing to conditions of underdevelopment particular to developing countries and to lack of resources such as trained manpower, technology know-how and information on sectoral energy demand. Demand-side management needs to be more widely adopted, energy conservation and the efficient utilization of energy require continued attention and measures to mitigate negative environmental impact need to be incorporated into energy plans and legislation. The plight of the rural and urban poor, in their lack of access to affordable clean energy, remains unresolved. Improved collaboration between developed and developing countries in addressing those specific problems will contribute greatly to their solution.

31.29 Natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, cyclones and storm surges, earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions frequently affect a large number of countries in the region, causing great loss of life and extensive damage to property and infrastructure. Vulnerability to climatic and geologic hazards continues to increase, mainly because of growing population pressure and the concentration of development activities in hazard-prone areas. Furthermore, environmental deterioration has been an increasingly important factor in aggravating several instances of natural disasters. The widespread destruction of lives and property caused by natural and man-made disasters takes a considerable toll on the development efforts.

31.30 The objectives of the subprogramme are to increase the awareness, knowledge and understanding of the problems to be addressed by identifying and assessing environmental concerns and trends in the region, promoting regional and inter-agency cooperation and use of new technologies, and to strengthen and increase the technical capacity of developing countries in their efforts:

(a) To establish policies and plans for environmentally sound and sustainable development, integration of the environmental imperatives into the development process, energy and natural resources development and management, and natural disaster reduction;

(b) To use environmentally sound technologies and promote new information technologies, particularly remote sensing and geographic information systems in the area of natural resources management and environment monitoring;

(c) To use, manage and allocate natural resources to meet competing demands and environmental requirements, making better use of existing infrastructure and financial resources;

(d) To formulate and implement energy development and management programmes that substitute oil and conserve energy as much as possible while protecting the environment;

(e) To develop mitigation plans concerning natural hazards for short- and long-term prevention, preparedness and community awareness;

(f) To establish and strengthen early warning systems to avert or minimize the hazardous impact of natural disasters.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.31 The activities will aim at promoting the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, which emerged from the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in October 1990, and regional cooperation through an interdisciplinary approach involving joint institutional action at the regional level, comprehensive national and regional environmental planning, development and transfer of environmentally benign technology, integration of environmental considerations into planning processes, environmental awareness at the local level and appropriate resource management strategies and policies. The activities will also include promoting development of policies to ensure protection and improvement of the environment in all sectors of the economy at the national level. The secretariat will support activities on endogenous capacity-building for national Governments, non-governmental organizations, research and training institutes, the media and subregional and regional institutions. Monitoring and assessment of the environment and establishment and upgrading of national databases for this purpose will be supported.

31.32 Closer cooperation and effective joint programming among United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and bilateral donor agencies/Governments will be promoted through the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development.

31.33 In the area of natural resources development and management, activities will address the need for planned mineral resources exploration and development and responsible land use, through training, exchange of information, technical advice and the strengthening of relevant national and regional institutions; preparation of reviews, studies and maps on geology and land use, mineral resources and potential, mineral economics and trade; and advisory services in the formulation of national policies, strategies and programmes for the development of mineral resources and land use, including the review of mining codes and related legislation and the promotion of foreign investment.

31.34 Water resources development activities will address problems in the water sector within the wider context of environment and development, including pertinent guidelines, reports, seminars, workshops, expert group meetings and advisory services. Assistance will be provided in the formulation and implementation of national master water plans, introduction of integrated water resources management, control and prevention of water pollution, assessment of water resources and water demand management within the framework of national economic and social objectives. The secretariat

will disseminate information on current developments in the water resources field, promote regional cooperation through technical cooperation among developing countries on various aspects of water resources development, legislation and management; and coordinate the regional activities of the United Nations bodies in the field of water resources development through the Inter-agency Task Force on Water for Asia and the Pacific.

31.35 In the area of energy resources management and development, activities will include research studies on energy topics of common interest, including resiliency of energy economies, technology options in mitigating global environmental concerns, research and development strategies, financing and investment strategies and long-term supply optimization, as well as energy mix strategies and strategies for penetration of technologies for new and renewable sources of energy. Results will be disseminated through seminars, symposia and publications, including meetings to discuss improvements and sharpen the focus of energy policies, and to enhance regional energy management and coordination through the regional energy working groups.

31.36 The secretariat will continue efforts to assist developing countries in improving energy data and build upon previous work of database development and sectoral energy demand studies. The programme of work will expand into other areas, such as scenario generation and forecasting, energy pricing (for example long-run marginal costs), energy conservation, clean coal technology, natural gas, electric power systems, new and renewable sources of energy and rural energy. Training courses on methodologies including microcomputer modelling techniques, workshops, seminars, consultancy and advisory services will be provided.

31.37 The secretariat will assist the member States as regards the legal, economic and technical implications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as with the development of a regional approach to marine affairs; it will promote the integration of marine-related sectors into a multidisciplinary marine policy; assist member countries in exercising their rights and fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, including those related to the marine environment through the provision of information and advisory services; foster regional cooperation in marine affairs by organizing regional seminars, workshops and training courses; strengthen national and regional organizations concerned with the exploration, development and management of living and non-living marine resources, including the coastal zone; and facilitate the transfer of technologies and marine scientific research through training courses, study tours and technical publications.

31.38 In the field of remote sensing and geographic information systems, activities will be designed to enable the member countries to meet the challenge of the new technology applications and to address the information needs in environmental and natural resources development and management. The activities will include research and pilot studies, training courses, seminars, workshops and meetings, advisory, consultancy and information services. It is expected that activities will be carried out through the creation of necessary infrastructure within the secretariat and establishment of a space applications programme. Since remote sensing and geographic information system technologies are multidisciplinary in nature, close cooperation within the secretariat and continuous coordination among the member countries will be enhanced in the course of action.

31.39 Natural disaster reduction activities will aim at strengthening of the disaster preparedness and mitigation capabilities of member countries through provision of technical assistance and training of key personnel in prediction and early warning, risk assessment, hazard mapping and land-use planning, hazard monitoring and damage assessment, selection of appropriate structural and non-structural measures for minimizing risk to lives, property and infrastructure; raising public awareness and preparedness on what to do before, during and after a calamity; strengthening or introducing institutional frameworks for natural disaster preparedness and mitigation; development of appropriate guidelines and strategies for application of new technologies to natural disaster reduction, establishment or strengthening capabilities in assessment of social and economic impact of natural disasters; development of national disaster management plans; promotion of regional cooperation in natural disaster reduction; and provision of substantive support to such intergovernmental institutions as the Typhoon Committee and the Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

31.40 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 37/221, 40/105, 41/97, 41/190, 42/64, 42/125, 42/178, 42/191, 43/94, 43/98, 43/101, 43/181, 44/212 and 45/199; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/10, 1988/9, 1988/19, 1988/30 and 1988/59 to 1988/61; Commission resolutions 185 (XXXIV), 249 (VLII), 252 (XLIII), 260 (XLIII), 263 (XLIII), 265 (XLIV), 266 (XLIV), 268 (XLIV), 273 (XLIV), 274 (XLIV), 45/1, 45/3, 45/7, 46/2, 47/5 and 48/... [adopting the Manila Declaration on the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond]; and the annual reports of the Commission (E/1980/26-E/ESCAP/188, paras. 467-474 and annex I; E/1987/34-E/ESCAP/590, paras. 290, 291 and 294; and E/1988/35-E/ESCAP/644, para. 180).

31.41 The ESCAP region has by and large recorded substantial economic growth during the last three decades. Despite the region's generally impressive growth, poverty has become more entrenched for large segments of society. More than 800 million people, or approximately 72 per cent of the world's absolute poor, reside in the ESCAP region. Their level of well-being is marked by deprivation of the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and essential services such as clean water, sanitation, health care and education.

31.42 The sharply skewed distribution of income and wealth throughout much of the region and the differential opportunities for access to public services and other social "goods" are a major constraint on further economic growth and a contributing factor underlying social discontent and instability. Major new initiatives are urgently needed to ameliorate the situation.

31.43 While recognizing that sustained economic growth is an essential prerequisite for the eradication of absolute poverty, the regional development record clearly demonstrates that growth per se cannot resolve the issue. In dealing with the poverty situation, it will therefore be necessary for countries of the region to adopt policy reforms and development strategies that take due account of the need to promote social equity within the context

of growth. In that connection, particular attention will need to be given to upgrading the region's human resources, with special attention to the situation of disadvantaged social groups.

31.44 The alleviation of poverty requires an integrated, multisectoral approach involving such diverse issues as social policy and services, human resources development, employment generation, population and development, and human settlements. As a large share of the region's poor live in rural and isolated communities, attention also needs to be given to agriculture and rural development. In addition, the disproportionately high incidence of poverty among women calls for special consideration to the issue of gender in all efforts to generate growth with equity.

31.45 The primary objectives of the subprogramme are to increase the understanding, and improve the quality and availability of data and analyses of social trends, issues and problems, and of the social costs of economic reform and structural adjustment, and to increase the technical capacity of developing countries, including those with transitional economies, in their efforts:

(a) To review and assess, in the areas of growth strategies and structural reform, the impact of economic reforms on the distribution of income and wealth, with special reference to their effects on the welfare of the poor and other disadvantaged groups;

(b) To establish programmes and measures that are targeted to provide direct benefits to the poor and marginalized sectors of the population;

(c) To strengthen, in the area of human resources development, institutional mechanisms for integrated human resources development and to formulate policies and programmes in line with the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP region;

(d) To formulate, in the area of social policy, social services and social security, policies and programmes aimed at alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life of the poor and other disadvantaged groups in line with the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(e) To promote, in the area of women in development, the full integration of women in development and improve their status in line with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

(f) To promote, in the area of population issues, integrated approaches to population planning;

(g) To improve, in the area of agriculture and rural development, policies and programmes for enhancing agricultural growth and rural development with a view to improving the conditions of the rural poor;

(h) To formulate, in the area of human settlements and urbanization, policies, plans and programmes to improve the quality of life in human settlements, and to strengthen institutions that manage human settlements programmes.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.46 In the area of growth strategies and structural reform, in-depth reviews and analyses will be undertaken to examine the need to lessen the social costs of economic reform and structural adjustment, and advice will be provided on appropriate courses of government intervention. Technical assistance will be provided to help redress the adverse employment, income, social and other consequences of economic reforms. Studies will be undertaken of the impact of structural adjustment and economic reforms on the pattern of government expenditure, with special reference to the social sector, which is likely to be most severely affected. In so doing, national Governments will be consulted during the review and analysis.

31.47 In the area of human resources development, assistance will be provided to strengthen the institutional capacity of the national agencies participating in the ESCAP Network of National Focal Points for Human Resources Development. Policy studies will be conducted on employment and human resources development, including the quality of life as an aspect of human resources development, and on science and technology. Cooperative relationships between the national focal points, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will be promoted to ensure an intersectoral approach to policy development and programme implementation. Reliable and up-to-date data to assess changing national human resources situations and needs will be developed. Training courses will be conducted to upgrade the skills of public sector and non-governmental organization personnel in the planning and delivery of human resources development services.

31.48 In the area of social policy, social services and social security, a regional network of concerned government agencies will be established to support the implementation of the Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond. Research studies will be undertaken and advisory services and other direct support will be rendered in strengthening national social development policies, plans and programmes, with particular reference to disadvantaged social groups, including youth, disabled persons and the elderly. In that connection, special attention will be given to the establishment and upgrading of social security systems, including such measures as income maintenance arrangements, food subsidy and direct food distribution programmes, child support and health, old age and survivors' insurance schemes. Technical assistance will be provided to promote cooperation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the delivery of social services. Studies will be undertaken and workshops will be convened to devise improved means of reducing the incidence of crime, particularly juvenile crime. Activities to promote the establishment and effective functioning of community-level drug abuse demand control programmes will be continued. Activities in cooperation with the United Nations Office at Vienna will be undertaken in observance of and as follow-up to the International Year of the Family. A social development newsletter examining current social issues in the region will be published and disseminated on a regular basis.

31.49 In the area of women in development, a regional intergovernmental meeting will be convened in preparation for the world conference on women, planned to be held in 1995. The regional implementation of global strategies, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women will be monitored. Training workshops will be organized and advisory services will be provided to improve the integration of women's concerns into development planning. Technical assistance will be provided through legal literacy campaigns and other means to improve the legal status of women. Effective strategies will be developed, training courses will be conducted and information exchange activities will be carried out by the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific to assist in the establishment and strengthening of national women's information systems.

31.50 In the area of population issues, research will be undertaken and technical assistance, including training and the provision of fellowships, will be provided to assist Governments in strengthening national capabilities in development policy and planning with respect to such major population issues as population ageing, spatial distribution of population, the relationships between population and the environment, the role of women, infant and child mortality and family planning. The regional implementation of the World Population Plan of Action as well as the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development will be monitored. The improved analysis and utilization of data provided by population censuses, registration systems for vital statistics, demographic sample surveys and family planning records will be promoted. Assistance will continue to be provided in the development of population information systems, including the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network.

31.51 In the area of agriculture and rural development, support will be provided to national programmes on rural poverty alleviation through increasing agricultural productivity and rural employment, including on-farm, off-farm and non-farm employment and self-employment. Assistance will be provided for developing income-raising programmes for the rural poor, including small and marginal farmers, landless agricultural workers, rural artisans and women. Advisory services will be provided on the improvement of facilities for the rural poor, with emphasis on local resource mobilization, agrarian reform, rural investment, marketing and credit and popular participation. In addition, support measures will be provided for environmentally sustainable agricultural development. Support for increased and balanced use of yield-increasing agricultural inputs and innovative institutional mechanisms for the procurement, supply, marketing and distribution of those inputs will also be provided. The implementation of these activities will feature close collaboration with the Inter-agency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific.

31.52 In the area of human settlements, support will be provided to assist countries in attaining adequate shelter by the year 2000 through the mobilization of the productive capacity of all sectors. Strategies will be devised to address the problems stemming from rapid urbanization through improved urban management and the development of rural centres and secondary cities. Assistance will be provided in formulating and implementing national action plans for environmentally sound and sustainable urban development and urban poverty alleviation. Coordinated action between local authorities and community-based non-governmental organizations for the improvement of human settlements will be encouraged. Support will be provided for the regularization of tenure rights to land occupied by disadvantaged social groups and for the development of systems for the delivery of land for new

settlements. Local bodies that set standards and specifications on housing and institutions that provide housing loans will be encouraged to promote the use of improved indigenous technologies and materials. Support will be rendered to the regional network of local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Objectives

31.53 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/227, 45/199 and 45/206; Commission resolutions 236 (XL) and 47/10; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1984/78 and 1991/75; the Declaration on the Launching of the Transport and Communications Decade by the Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications; and the reports of the Commission (E/1989/33-E/ESCAP/693, paras. 467 and 469; E/1990/40-E/ESCAP/748, paras. 473 and 475-479; and E/1991/35-E/ESCAP/822, paras. 472, 474 and 476).

31.54 There are great differences in the current development status of the transport and communications sectors of the ESCAP developing members and associate members. This is due mainly to the complexities of geography and location, especially in least developed, archipelagic and land-locked countries, and the different levels of economic development, as well as the countries' development perspectives and policy orientations. However, some common factors have prevented these countries from acquiring a modern and efficient transport and communications system. Among those factors are insufficient investment and maintenance, deficiencies in management, lack of integrated planning and coordination among different modes of transport, slow pace of technological improvement, inadequate manpower development, outdated legislative and commercial framework, lack of data and information and low private sector involvement.

31.55 The provision of an adequate transport and communications infrastructure and services is essential to support the economic and social development of the countries of the region, which is proceeding at a faster rate than in other regions. Inadequacies of the infrastructure and services are apparent and, unless rectified, will hinder future economic and social development. This especially concerns some transitional economies whose communications and transport systems are poorly incorporated in regional networks.

31.56 For many countries in the region, tourism is a major growth industry with strong potential as a contributing factor in socio-economic development. The tourism industry in the developing countries of the region is gaining recognition as an important means of earning foreign exchange and creating employment opportunities, as well as expanding their economic base, through its linkages with the agricultural, industrial and service sectors. It can also help reduce regional disparities in income and employment, since areas suitable for tourism are often situated far from the main centres of other economic activity. This sector, however, faces a number of problems and constraints that need to be addressed in order to harness fully the potential of tourism such as: (a) lack of clearly defined tourism policies; (b) lack of comprehensive perception of the socio-economic and environmental impact of

tourism; (c) lack of adequate expertise and facilities for manpower training; (d) inadequate tourism-related infrastructure; and (e) insufficient marketing skills. These issues could be tackled more effectively through closer cooperation among the countries of the region.

31.57 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To improve the transport and communications services and infrastructural facilities of the developing members and associate members to a level commensurate with their development objectives and priorities through the development of appropriate, well-balanced, coordinated and efficient transport and communications systems;

(b) To increase national capabilities in institutional development, including the formulation of development strategies, multimodalism and technology transfer; improvement of transport and communications operations; human resources development; promotion of commercialization; consideration of environmental, health and safety factors in transport development programmes; and urban transport development, in line with the themes, strategic themes and related issues identified for phase II of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific (1992-1996);

(c) To increase the technical capacity of developing countries in their efforts to maximize socio-economic benefits from tourism development while minimizing its adverse impact.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.58 In the field of transport and communications, the secretariat will continue to perform its catalytic role, during the medium-term plan period, in creating greater public awareness of the importance of transport and communications in the development process, in identifying systematically and in a comprehensive manner the problems of transport and communications in the region, and in formulating and promoting appropriate solutions to regional problems in the light of the objectives of the Decade. It will assume the lead role in inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the regional activities related to the Decade. It will, in cooperation with the other regional commissions, develop interregional projects.

31.59 The secretariat will review the regional transport and communications development, and research and analyse related issues; monitor and coordinate the activities related to the second phase of the Decade at the national, subregional and regional levels; develop guidelines for legal frameworks and management information systems; promote the development of interregional and intraregional transport linkages, including the development of the Asian land transport infrastructure; assist in human resources development; promote the involvement of the private sector; and encourage the enhancement of transport databases. In undertaking the course of action, it will pay special attention to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

31.60 In the field of tourism, major efforts will be devoted (a) to the improvement of policies for tourism development on the basis of an appraisal of the socio-economic and environmental impact of tourism; (b) to the strengthening of national capabilities in human resources development in the

tourism sector; (c) to the strengthening of national capabilities in tourism marketing and in taking effective steps to create a favourable investment climate for the development of tourism; and (d) to the promotion of regional and subregional cooperation in tourism development and promotion. Studies, seminars, workshops, meetings and technical advisory missions constitute the basic methods of assistance. Data and information on tourism development issues will be disseminated to members and associate members through various publications, including the ESCAP Tourism Review. The needs of Pacific island countries and the least developed countries as well as the Indochinese countries will receive the special attention of the secretariat in implementing tourism activities.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. STATISTICS

(a) Objectives

31.61 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is Commission resolution 246 (XLII) entitled "Statistical services in Asia and the Pacific", paragraphs 2 and 4.

31.62 Very few, if any, of the developing countries of the region are as yet completely able to satisfy, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness, the requirements for information that the increasingly complex challenge of economic and social development demands. Available data often do not form a cohesive, consistent body of information that can be utilized in cross-sectoral analysis. The use of statistics is not yet sufficiently implanted into the policy formulation and decision-making processes in many countries, and there is an inadequate appreciation of the role of statisticians in the management of the economy. Throughout the region, budgetary constraints are hampering the development of national statistical services and inadequate human resources development is a key factor hindering strengthened statistical capability, especially in the application of computerized technology to statistical work.

31.63 Without readily available comparable regional data, administrators, policy makers and researchers encounter difficulties in the formulation of development programmes in the region, in monitoring the development process and in evaluating the impact of development plans generally and of regional cooperative arrangements and international development strategies in particular. There is currently no comprehensive integrated statistical database available with which to assess and monitor economic and social development in the region.

31.64 The application of information technology in the government sector offers one of the most promising prospects in developing countries for improving the planning and management of development. However, computerization of the government sector in the region is impeded by a number of obstacles, primarily institutional, organizational and human resource-related, but also technological. Moreover, existing government information systems in developing countries are concentrated at the central government level and are sectoral in nature, and thus do not adequately support the planning and management process. In addition, public sector computing increasingly requires a migration away from traditional data-processing applications, which deal with data in isolation from

day-to-day operations. In spite of recent developments that have brought information technology within their economic and practical grasp, developing countries are not yet equipped to deal with these matters because of limitations on their experience and expertise.

31.65 The objectives of the subprogramme are improving the quality and availability of demographic, social, economic and other statistics, their maintenance in a form suitable for retrieval and dissemination, and increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in their efforts:

(a) To meet the aspirations expressed in Commission resolution 246 (XLII) concerning the improvement and strengthening of statistical services;

(b) To identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize data needed for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and policies;

(c) To utilize modern information technology in the public sector at both central and subnational levels to facilitate the planning and management of economic and social development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.66 The secretariat will continue to help countries, through direct technical cooperation, to strengthen and consolidate their statistical capacity. With maturing capabilities in several countries of the region, greater emphasis will be placed on fostering all forms of regional cooperation, including technical cooperation among developing countries. The activities will also address the need for accuracy and timely dissemination of data, while work on requirements for guidelines, classifications and methodologies in existing and emerging activities will be continued, in conjunction with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The application of new statistical techniques and the development of computerized information processing will receive due emphasis. Greater efforts will be made to improve skills in the interpretation, presentation and utilization of data, and issues relating to the management of statistical services will receive heightened prominence.

31.67 Advisory services will continue to be provided in such fields as national accounts, population censuses and surveys, household surveys and data processing. Transfer and exchange of statistical expertise through technical meetings and its dissemination through training courses and workshops will have a direct impact on human resources development in the field of statistics.

31.68 The subprogramme will undertake activities in support of other work of ESCAP, including the development, collection and dissemination of major economic aggregates and social indicators to facilitate analysis of regional trends, and improved harmonization, coverage and timeliness of statistics on trade and investment flows. Increasing concern with the qualitative aspects of development, including the quality of life, social justice and the environment, will also be reflected in the secretariat's activities, as will greater efforts at the measurement of poverty and other aspects of living standards, at both the macro and micro levels. In view of growing concern at the depletion of natural resource assets in the region, special attention will be paid to environmental and natural resource accounting.

31.69 Closer attention will also be paid to the intercountry comparability of data and work on the International Comparison Programme will continue to be supported. Activities will be undertaken to develop statistics on services. Special attention will be devoted to the transitional economies of the region in the context of assisting statistical services to adjust to national economic reform processes.

31.70 Automation of the database of ESCAP statistical publications will be developed gradually, both to provide better service to users and to utilize the secretariat's resources more efficiently. Efforts will continue to improve further the coverage, quality and comparability of data collected and disseminated by the secretariat, and attempts will also be made to attain consistency in national statistics and to assess their reliability. Efforts will be made to introduce a new dissemination service through the provision of statistics on diskettes for microcomputers and through other media. New compilations in specialized fields of statistics and for subregional groupings of countries may be issued. An ESCAP-wide integrated network of databases of economic, social and demographic statistics, providing access to the United Nations databases in New York and Geneva and other international agencies, will be completed and this will help revitalize the in-house statistical servicing aspects of the secretariat's work.

31.71 In public sector computerization, work will be targeted towards the realization of the potential of information technology and the intensification of its use throughout government, particularly at the subnational level.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(a) Objectives

31.72 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 34/203, 34/210, 35/56, annex, paragraph 136, 35/205, 36/194, paragraphs 8, 10, 11 and 13, 40/205, 41/163, 42/177, 43/186, 43/189, 45/206 and 46/156; and Commission resolutions 244 (XLI) and 269 (XLIV).

31.73 Among the common structural characteristics of the least developed countries is a narrow domestic resource base with the bulk of the workforce engaged in subsistence agriculture, where productivity is low and modern cultivation practices have not made significant progress. The manufacturing sector, dominated by small-scale and cottage industries, contributes less than 10 per cent of GDP and employs only a small proportion of the labour force. Exports comprise mainly a few primary and semi-processed products, the prices and earnings for which are unstable. The domestic savings rate is generally low in these economies and consequently there is heavy dependence on external assistance and remittances for financing investment and imports. Human resources development levels are low, with a majority of the people deprived of minimum levels of nutrition, health care, housing, sanitation, education and transport services. Shortages of trained manpower and inadequate physical and institutional infrastructures are also bottlenecks in their development. The increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters have caused disruptions to the development process in many of these economies. Moreover, despite the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, the socio-economic situation of these countries in the region generally deteriorated in the 1980s. For the most

part, the goals set in the Programme were not achieved and the average GDP growth of the least developed countries of the ESCAP region was much below the target of 7.2 per cent per annum envisaged in the Programme. Hence, their generally poor economic performance over the past decade, the growing income disparity between them and most other developing countries in the region and the large gap between the commitments and actual delivery of international assistance extended to them have raised serious concern for their growth prospects in the years ahead.

31.74 The unfavourable geographical situation of the land-locked countries results in transit and transport problems. This and other problems unique to the economies of this group of countries act as major impediments to their foreign trade and constitute one of the serious constraints to their economic and social development.

31.75 As for the island developing countries, as a group they have been growing at the slowest rate among ESCAP developing subregions. Given this relatively unfavourable record of economic performance through most of the past decade, they face the possibility of being mere sideline spectators to the high drama of growth and structural transformation being staged in the developing ESCAP region. Some of the major constraints to growth in the island developing economies are small domestic markets, lack of diversity in resources (in both natural endowments and human resources), heavy dependence on foreign imports, diseconomies of scale in the provision of infrastructural services and high concentration of exports on a few commodities, which increases trade vulnerability. Consequently, low growth has been exacerbated by high volatility in economic performance and the countries remain extremely vulnerable to economic shocks of both domestic and foreign origin. That vulnerability has created complications and has added costs in designing and implementing development policies and plans. It has also made the task of macroeconomic management and stabilization more difficult.

31.76 In the light of the above problems and concerns, emphasis will be placed on the need to renew international commitment to meet the special needs of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as well as for these countries to make a concerted effo.. for more effective utilization of resources at their command, both generated internally and those flowing from abroad.

31.77 The objectives with regard to the least developed countries are to ensure the full implementation of the programme of action adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris in 1990, and to increase the technical capacity of those countries in the formulation, implementation and management of development activities.

31.78 The objectives with regard to land-locked developing countries are to increase the technical capacity of those countries in their efforts:

(a) To develop professional skills and effective personnel active in the field of trade;

(b) To formulate and implement an integrated transport planning strategy between land-locked and transit countries, and to build and improve their transit infrastructure;

(c) To conduct surveys of bottlenecks and problems in the transit trade between land-locked and transit countries, and develop measures to overcome them.

31.79 The objectives with respect to island developing countries are to increase the information and understanding of their economic performance and the implications of trade, finance and investment and to increase their technical capacity in their efforts to address their problems and formulate and implement development policies and plans.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.80 With regard to the least developed countries, the implementation of the New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will be monitored and in-depth studies will be undertaken on the socio-economic situation and problems to be addressed. Emphasis will also be placed on technical cooperation in the form of consultancy, advisory services and training. Existing cooperation arrangements between these countries and other countries in the region will be strengthened, and new arrangements will be explored. One means towards strengthened cooperation will be the convening of cluster meetings as envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. In addition, the flow of technical and financial assistance from bilateral donors and multilateral financial institutions will be facilitated for the purpose of assisting the countries in accelerating their growth and alleviating their people's poverty.

31.81 As regards land-locked developing countries, close inter-programming consultations will be held to identify and implement projects relevant to their special development needs, and cooperation will be promoted between land-locked and transit countries. The economic conditions of those countries will be analysed and training will be conducted to improve managerial and technical skills in the private and public sectors, particularly in relation to trade and transport.

31.82 As for island developing countries, their social and economic problems will be analysed in greater detail and development profiles of their economies will be prepared and updated periodically. Seminars, workshops and training programmes will be conducted on selected issues in development policy and planning, and in this connection human resources development activities will receive high priority. Advisory services will be provided and exploratory work will be carried out on promoting greater subregional and regional cooperation, especially in the area of foreign investment and trade.

ANNEX

Paragraphs in the current text (A/45/6/Rev.1) that have not been substantially modified

Paragraphs in A/45/6/Rev.1	Paragraphs in the revised programme
31.1	31.1
31.2	31.2
31.3	31.3
31.5 (first sentence)	31.8
31.6	31.9
31.7	31.11
31.65	31.15
31.57-31.63 (elements thereof)	31.16
31.19 (partially)	31.19
31.67 (d)	31.20
31.63	31.22
31.23-31.24	31.28
31.32	31.31
31.25	31.36
31.81	31.38
31.40-31.41	31.47
31.121 (c)	31.49
31.86	31.50
31.12-31.14	31.51
31.47-31.55	31.52
31.113	31.54
31.114	31.55
31.115 (a)	31.57 (a)
31.116	31.58
31.102-31.111	31.61-31.71

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 32)
28 April 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revised programme 32, Regional cooperation for development in Europe, replaces the narrative of programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revised programme has not had a final review by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

4. The following text replaces the text of programme 32 contained in A/45/6/Rev.1.

---

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

92-17846 3137g (E) 290492 010592

/...

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
A.	Programme	32.1 - 32.16	3
	1. General orientation	32.1 - 32.8	3
	2. Overall strategy	32.9 - 32.14	5
	3. Subprogramme structure and priorities	32.15 - 32.16	6
B.	Subprogrammes	32.17 - 32.92	6
	1. Environment	32.17 - 32.25	6
	2. Transport	32.26 - 32.41	8
	3. Statistics	32.42 - 32.46	11
	4. Trade	32.47 - 32.55	13
	5. Economic development	32.56 - 32.63	15
	6. Energy	32.64 - 32.68	16
	7. Industrial development	32.69 - 32.75	17
	8. Science and technology	32.76 - 32.79	19
	9. Agriculture and timber	32.80 - 32.86	20
	10. Human settlements	32.87 - 32.92	21

PROGRAMME 32. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

A. Programme

1. General orientation

32.1 The legislative authority for the programme stems from Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations and from Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, whereby the Council established ECE and assigned to it responsibilities for coordination and promotion of international economic cooperation in Europe. The mandate of the programme is further elaborated in a number of General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions, as well as in Commission resolutions and decisions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 40/178, 43/219, 44/211, 45/199, 45/253 and 46/145; Council resolutions 1989/114, 1990/69 and 1990/83; and Commission decisions O (45), P (45) and A (46).

32.2 The programme is aimed at:

(a) Strengthening regional, subregional and interregional economic cooperation, particularly in priority areas, namely, environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation (EDIFACT), and economic analysis in recognition of the need to re-evaluate its priorities from time to time in accordance with changed circumstances;

(b) Making full use of economic growth opportunities through the implementation of appropriate economic and social policies taking into account the relationship between the environment and economic activity, in particular the application of the guiding principle of sustainable development;

(c) Promoting the process of economic reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the integration of the economies in transition into the European and global economy.

To achieve these objectives emphasis is placed on close cooperation and coordination of ECE activities with other international organizations and institutions.

32.3 The programme of ECE, like that of the other regional commissions, has evolved in response to the various needs and priorities of member countries and changing economic and social conditions in the region and the world. Since many of the issues in the economic, social and environmental fields calling for concerted international action are essentially regional in nature, they can be dealt with most effectively at the regional level. In that context, ECE is called upon to play an increasingly active role in promoting regional and subregional initiatives, including assistance to the countries in transition and their integration into the European and global economy, in accordance with Commission decisions O (45) and B (46).

32.4 Over the years, the promotion of dialogue and cooperation between countries of the region with different economic systems was a major task of the Commission. Under radically changing conditions in the region, ECE continues to serve as the longest-standing permanent intergovernmental

multilateral body for the promotion of pan-European and transatlantic economic cooperation. Its membership comprises all countries of Europe as well as Canada, Israel and the United States of America. In keeping with this function, ECE has played an important role in the implementation of pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), signed in 1975, and subsequent CSCE documents. The concluding documents of the Madrid and Vienna Follow-up Meetings, as well as the Paris Charter for a New Europe, adopted by the Heads of State and Governments of the CSCE at their summit meeting in Paris in November 1990, specifically recognized the work of ECE - both successfully accomplished or still in progress - and outlined new activities and provided new impetus for the work of the Commission.

32.5 Major economic processes taking place in and among ECE member countries will give rise to a reorientation and strengthening of cooperation in the region and certain subregions during the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan. Those include economic reforms in the Central and Eastern European States, as well as integration processes in EEC and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), as manifested by the proposed European Economic Area and association and free trade agreements with several countries in Central and Eastern Europe; and the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement. Further emphasis will be added at the subregional level to cooperation among the Balkan countries, countries in Central Europe and in the Baltic and the Arctic regions, as well as in the Mediterranean.

32.6 The positive developments in cooperation within Europe and North America at both the regional and subregional levels indicate more vibrant economic relations in the 1990s. However, the share of ECE in global production and trade places a marked responsibility on the member countries and on ECE as an organization, particularly in the areas of environment and sustainable development, to promote cooperation between States and groups of States.

32.7 On the basis of its comprehensive and multisectoral programme of work, ECE has a particular potential for interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches to complex problems, a potential that will prove to be of increasing significance given the growing number, urgency and complexity of problems that demand solutions involving more than one sector. The experience gained in the preparation of the Overall Economic Perspective to the Year 2000 and the interdisciplinary approach developed by ECE on sustainable development as a follow-up to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development will serve as models for a wider application of such methods of work.

32.8 In terms of the sectoral approach, the Commission will, in accordance with decision O (45), give emphasis to its priority areas of work. The transformations in Central and Eastern Europe have added implications for all of the Commission's work, especially such practical issues as the development of transport and energy infrastructures; privatization, joint ventures and other forms of domestic and foreign investment; restructuring of state-owned industrial enterprises; and training. ECE will continue to serve as a forum for dialogue among its member countries on many critical issues, and also as a centre for data collection and for the dissemination of specific information in the region to all its members, as and when required.

2. Overall strategy

32.9 The programme will be implemented by the secretariat of ECE in close cooperation with its member States and with intergovernmental organizations. The secretariat will undertake independent economic research, analysis and studies of specific issues, provide substantive servicing of the intergovernmental mechanisms of the Commission and play an active role in the preparation of seminars, workshops and other events in member countries and for groups of countries, with a view to helping them cope with specific problems affecting them. In the framework of a global data policy, the secretariat will maintain links with national statistical offices and provide access to its data banks for various media, as well as disseminate information on specific issues to all interested parties.

32.10 ECE will continue to serve as a forum for the ongoing exchange of information and experience among governmental experts in all areas of its programme of work. This technical work provides the basis for the elaboration of medium- and long-term strategies and policy recommendations. Examples such as the Overall Economic Perspective to the Year 2000, regional strategies for waste management, environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources, a charter on groundwater management, long-term perspectives for human settlements development, timber trends and prospects to the year 2000 and beyond, and "Energy Efficiency 2000", could serve as stimulus for ECE to take up similar activities in other areas, including an all-European concept of transport, a European programme on the environment and the promotion of the linkages between environment and other sectors of activity for the realization of the principle of sustainable development.

32.11 ECE has already proved to be an appropriate framework for the elaboration and adoption of regional legal instruments, especially in the fields of transport and environment, some of which are increasingly applied beyond the ECE region. The experience gained will be applied to other areas where such regulations are in the interests of all ECE member countries.

32.12 ECE will strengthen its efforts to translate its work into concrete and practical measures and to disseminate the products of its work to all its member States and other interested parties, including other intergovernmental organizations. More efficient ways of communicating with and involving end-users and in particular the business community will be devised through common efforts by the member countries and the secretariat to derive the largest possible benefit from ECE activities.

32.13 The Commission will, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 and 1991/51 and its decision C (46) on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, continue its work in the fields of timber, agriculture, human settlements, chemical industry, engineering industries and automation related to this subject, and consider other possible areas of work where it can contribute to the implementation of the Joint Plan of International Cooperation of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

32.14 In the course of implementation of the programme, the secretariat of ECE will cooperate with the other regional commissions, other United Nations

programmes and with subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It will also cooperate and coordinate its activities with a number of specialized agencies, including FAO, IBRD, ILO, WHO and UNIDO, and with European institutions such as the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

32.15 The programme on regional cooperation for development in Europe will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Environment
Subprogramme 2. Transport
Subprogramme 3. Statistics
Subprogramme 4. Trade
Subprogramme 5. Economic development
Subprogramme 6. Energy
Subprogramme 7. Industrial development
Subprogramme 8. Science and technology
Subprogramme 9. Agriculture and timber
Subprogramme 10. Human settlements

32.16 Subprogrammes 1 to 3, together with trade facilitation under subprogramme 4 and economic analysis under subprogramme 5, have been designated as priority areas of work by Commission decision 0 (45). Activities in the other subprogrammes that are not identified as priorities are to take into account work in priority areas and to give special attention to needs of countries in transition and countries that are developing from an economic point of view, as well as the guiding principle of sustainable development.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. ENVIRONMENT

(a) Objectives

32.17 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186, 44/207, 44/226, 45/190 and 46/150; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/87, 1990/50 and 1991/51; and ECE decisions O (45), P (45), A (46), D (46) and E (46).

32.18 ECE regards environment as one of its priority areas of activity and acts as a forum for the elaboration of regional legal instruments in the field of environment and for relevant follow-up action.

32.19 The emission, transmission and deposition of sulphur compounds, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and other major air pollutants and their effects on human health and the environment, including agriculture, forestry, aquatic and other natural ecosystems, pose major problems for the

countries of the region. International cooperation is essential in the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies and legal instruments for air pollution abatement, in the monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission and environmental effects of air pollutants and in the promotion of technologies and economic instruments for emission control.

32.20 Experience has shown that there is a strong interrelationship between the quality of the environment and economic activities, and that there is a need to define the natural resource base for sustainable development. In that respect, environmental impact assessment is an important planning tool. In the light of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, it is necessary to elaborate a regional approach to sustainable development.

32.21 The recovery and reuse of residues from industrial production and consumption, including by-products and waste, is a policy option that offers an opportunity to economize resources as well as minimize environmental and human health impacts. There is an increasing need for the application of the cradle-to-grave approach to waste management, giving due attention to waste minimization at source through low- and non-waste technology. Mechanisms and procedures that provide for safe handling and transport of toxic or otherwise hazardous chemicals are growing in significance.

32.22 Water has become a key element in ecosystems management and socio-economic development as a consequence of increased urban densities, rapid industrial expansion, changing methods of agricultural exploitation, rising living standards and the growth of tourism. In coming years, member Governments will face a number of policy questions that call for joint international activities, in the form of cooperative programmes and agreements on action. Problems associated with the equitable utilization of transboundary waters, as well as prevention and control of transboundary pollution, will assume special importance.

32.23 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the field of policy and management problems: to promote the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of effective environmental strategies and policies, including the concept of sustainable development, the integration of environment and economics at both the national and international levels, and the incorporation of environmental considerations into planning and decision-making procedures, including the application of environmental impact assessment, particularly in a transboundary context, and the prevention and control of transboundary effects of industrial accidents;

(b) In the field of air pollution problems: to strengthen cooperation in limiting, gradually reducing and preventing air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution, through the implementation of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement; to monitor and evaluate the long-range transmission of air pollutants and the effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment; and to promote international cooperation in the field of emission-control technologies and economic aspects of emission control;

(c) In the field of resource and waste problems: to strengthen

cooperation in reducing environmental problems associated with production and consumption processes to promote the implementation of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Reutilization and Recycling of Wastes; to promote environmentally sound products as well as recycling of industrial waste; to advance integrated waste management at both the national and international levels; to promote policies reducing the risks of industrial accidents, including the elaboration of appropriate legal instruments; and promotion of regional cooperation regarding environmentally sound management of chemicals;

(d) In the field of water problems: to promote the coherent development, integrated management and rational utilization of water resources and their protection against pollution. This objective includes legal, administrative, socio-economic, environmental and technical aspects at the river-basin, national and international levels in the ECE region, with special emphasis on cooperation in the field of transboundary waters.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.24 The secretariat will assist the Commission in the promotion and strengthening of cooperation among ECE Governments in the field of environmental protection, sustainable development and rational use of natural resources, and elaboration of regional legal instruments in the field of environment; in particular regarding long-range transboundary air pollution; protection and use of transboundary water courses and international lakes; transboundary effects of industrial accidents; and environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context. The secretariat will undertake research and analysis on issues on the regional environment and will monitor and evaluate the promotion of regional cooperation in specific environmental fields and will review the performance of individual countries in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and regional commitments.

32.25 The secretariat will service possible follow-up activities in the framework of international conventions both in effect and under negotiation under the auspices of ECE. It will continue to service regular meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies and play an active role in the preparation of seminars and other meetings, including workshops in different subregions, in particular in countries in transition, on environmental issues aimed at disseminating the findings of the research and analyses. It will examine ways of translating those findings into intergovernmental and governmental policies and measures.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. TRANSPORT

(a) Objectives

32.26 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 42/186; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/104 and 1991/74; and ECE decisions O (45), P (45), A (46), E (46) and F (46).

32.27 ECE regards transport as one of its priority areas of activity and attaches great importance to the harmonization of standards and regulations on the construction of vehicles, the transport of dangerous goods, road traffic safety and customs requirements, the development of coherent transport infrastructure and combined transport.

32.28 Economic growth and wealth depend to an increasing extent on the exchange of goods and services between countries and the establishment of an international division of labour. It is a fact that production growth, trade and transport are closely interrelated. It is, however, in many respects a complex relationship, since transport, while being an essential supporting element of trade, also contributes to the generation of economic activities and exchanges. Transport has considerable impact on the environment, which needs to be closely examined within the context of the further liberalization of trade.

32.29 In view of the close relationship between transport and the overall socio-economic framework, it is evident that any modification in one of the two areas has an impact on the other. In this connection, the important economic developments currently under way in Europe, namely, the completion of a single market within EEC, the establishment of a European Economic Area between EEC and EFTA as well as the transition process of Central and Eastern European countries to a market economy, will influence considerably the transport sector. New logistics approaches and the increasing concern over the environment have an impact on transport.

32.30 The establishment of a single market within EEC will involve the abolition of frontier controls of goods, the freedom of movement and settlement of people, and the harmonization of technical and administrative standards. All these developments will lead to the increase in transport volumes. The creation of a European Economic Area will intensify this trend. In Central and Eastern Europe, the transition from a centrally planned system to market economy principles will encourage the use of road transport.

32.31 The structure of trade in goods and services is also changing. In relative terms, goods in bulk are declining while intermediate manufactures are on the increase. Consignments of goods to be transported are becoming smaller. The value of goods per unit of mass or volume is becoming increasingly high. Industrial organization is improving and becoming more demanding in terms of logistical improvements (for example, just-in-time transport), the tendency being to integrate transport into the process of production and distribution. These new developments also lead to a higher utilization of road transport.

32.32 International concerted action at the regional level is required, on the one hand, to plan and develop the necessary international transport infrastructure and, on the other, to provide adequate administrative support to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers across frontiers. Particular emphasis must therefore be laid at the intergovernmental level on the preparation of harmonized standards and technical requirements for all types of transport infrastructure and equipment, especially for combined transport, and on the development and introduction of electronic data processing at the international level to facilitate international transport management and administrative procedures.

32.33 Transport affects the environment because of noise, air and water pollution and the use of land. In some countries, the impact of transport operations, in particular road transport, on the environment has reached levels that are no longer acceptable. Growing awareness of environmental concerns will increasingly influence national transport policies in the years

ahead and will require that adequate measures be taken. Whereas the integration and transition processes lead to growth in road transport, environmental considerations become increasingly important, suggesting alternative solutions to purely road transport in favour of combined transport and other alternate transport modes.

32.34 Information on transport flows and trends along important European transport corridors, together with reliable and internationally comparable data on the structure and performance of the transport sector, needs to be compiled, analysed and disseminated on a regular basis, as such information is an indispensable tool for policy decisions in that area. Region-wide regular consultations and exchange of information among Governments are indispensable factors of cooperation in this field.

32.35 The development of new technologies, particularly in electronics and telecommunications, will open new possibilities for improving the efficiency of transport and communications; it will, however, create new problems in relation to the standardization of equipment and the safety of transport and communications operations.

32.36 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen cooperation among Governments in formulating and implementing a coordinated, homogenous and environmentally sound transport, communications and tourism concept, particularly with regard to infrastructure planning aimed at an efficient integrated European transport system, including promotion of action-oriented projects in that respect; to promote international cooperation in developing strategies for sustainable transport;

(b) To promote the development of an internationally reliable database on transport flows and to promote the dissemination of data and information relevant for policy makers and transport, communications and tourism industries;

(c) To elaborate and promote harmonized technical regulations and standards in areas such as construction of motor vehicles, traffic safety and transport of dangerous goods;

(d) To update existing international instruments and to prepare new ones in line with the rapid evolution of transport in the region. That objective includes public and private law aspects and covers technical as well as customs and other administrative documentation and procedures concerning road, rail and inland water transport.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.37 The secretariat of ECE will carry out research and analysis concerning the current and expected evolution of international traffic flows aimed at assessing the demand for transport services and particularly the infrastructure needs. It will review and evaluate trends and developments in specific transport areas and prepare studies and promote activities aimed at improving transport safety and road traffic safety.

32.38 The secretariat will assist ECE and other intergovernmental bodies in

formulating comprehensive strategies aimed at the development of coherent, environmentally sound and efficient transport, communications and tourism systems in the region.

32.39 The secretariat will continue to administer a large number of legal instruments, regulations and recommendations, some of which are applied worldwide, concerning the organization and management of international transport, communications and tourism, and will, according to needs, contribute to the elaboration of new legal instruments in the light of identified needs.

32.40 The secretariat will maintain and strengthen contacts with other regional commissions to ensure consistency of transport policies with environmental goals and requirements on a worldwide basis and to make available existing expertise and experience in this field to other regions and interested intergovernmental bodies.

32.41 The secretariat will continue to service regular meetings of relevant intergovernmental bodies, and will play an active role in the preparation of seminars, symposia and workshops on practical issues of immediate concern. It will provide assistance to a number of administrative bodies established under various international instruments and disseminate the results achieved through those activities in order to encourage the implementation of common transport policies and measures. It will continue to support and promote operational projects such as the Trans-European North-South Motorway and Trans-European Railway in order to assist participating countries in their development to achieve a harmonized and coherent European transport network, as well as interregional projects. It will assist in the collection, compilation and distribution, in particular through meetings, seminars and symposia, of statistical and other information concerning international transport, communications and tourism.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. STATISTICS

(a) Objectives

32.42 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/3 and ECE decisions O (45), P (45) and A (46).

32.43 ECE regards statistical activities as a priority area of activity and attaches great importance to the central role of the Conference of European Statisticians as an institution that includes national statistical offices of all countries in the region, in the framework of the mechanisms of cooperation among international and supranational organizations active in the field of statistics.

32.44 The subprogramme addresses the problem of conceptual and methodological development of statistical services of the region to better meet the need for timely, consistent and comparable statistics for monitoring, analysis and policy design in economic, social, demographic and environmental fields, for facilitating the integration of economies in transition into the European and global economy, and for fostering international economic cooperation. The problems facing statistical services of the countries in transition from

centrally planned to market economy-type management will require particular attention, as will the problems of statistical services related to integration processes and other processes of cooperation.

32.45 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To adapt and/or to develop, in close cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Commission, OECD, Eurostat and relevant specialized agencies, international statistical standard recommendations so that they meet the conditions and needs of countries in transition, and reflect ongoing integration processes in the region, focusing on priority fields of economic statistics and selected fields of social and demographic statistics;

(b) To develop further the conceptual basis for the accelerated introduction of environment and natural resource statistics into national practices;

(c) To foster the development and implementation of up-to-date statistical information technology and to contribute to the development of electronic data interchange in statistics;

(d) To provide improved and strong statistical support for the Commission's priority areas of environment, transport, trade facilitation and economic analysis;

(e) To strengthen the coordination of all statistical activities of international institutions active in the region, and the coordination of statistical programmes and activities of ECE so as to avoid duplication of effort and to better utilize available resources;

(f) To develop suitable instruments aimed at the reduction of response burden for member countries, while improving international comparability of statistics published in key areas;

(g) To provide a forum for the exchange of experience among member Governments on all matters relating to the organization and operation of statistical services.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.46 In view of those objectives, the secretariat will:

(a) Plan, organize and service the meetings convened by the Conference of European Statisticians dealing with statistical problems and issues of concern to all countries in the region, and thereby to provide input to the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission at the global level;

(b) Assist countries in transition in developing national statistical programmes in fields such as national accounts, price statistics, agricultural statistics, foreign trade statistics, monetary and government finance statistics, statistical information technology, labour statistics and the development of business registers, in particular through acting as a clearing-house and promoting specific projects in the context of the subprogramme;

(c) Compile and process data for the Commission's priority areas of environment, transport, trade facilitation and economic analysis, provide stronger statistical support for these areas and further develop the ECE statistical database, primarily as regards the countries in transition;

(d) Contribute to the improvement of coordination of international statistical cooperation through mechanisms such as the ACC Subcommittee on Statistics, inter-secretariat working groups and other efficient forms of statistical cooperation, and to enhance the ongoing tripartite cooperation between ECE, EEC (Eurostat) and OECD;

(e) Continue the compilation and publication of internationally comparable, timely and consistent statistical data and evaluate periodically, with the assistance of member States, the utility and impact of the ECE's statistical publications, with the aim of formulating recommendations concerning the improvement of the format, substance and arrangements for distribution of publications of high interest and the discontinuation of publications of low interest.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. TRADE

(a) Objectives

32.47 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 44/205 and 44/218; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/61, 1988/68, 1989/118 and 1991/76; and ECE decisions 0 (45), P (45) and A (46).

32.48 ECE regards trade facilitation as a priority area of activity and attaches particular importance to the development of the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), which will permit unprecedented increases in efficiency and financial savings in the conduct of international trade.

32.49 Trade facilitation consists of the simplification, rationalization and, where possible, standardization of those governmental and institutional procedures, formalities and requirements that place financial and economic burdens on the free flow of goods and transport. Information accompanying goods in international trade, or that related to their payment, has to be transferred between a number of parties, traditionally on a number of different paper documents. Cumbersome formalities and procedures constitute a major impediment to trade, but can be eliminated or greatly reduced through harmonization of standards. UN/EDIFACT, developed and maintained within the framework of the ECE Working Party on the Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, provides necessary standards to ensure worldwide harmonization in trade information interchange. Constant cooperation is maintained with national and international institutions engaged in such activities.

32.50 The economic interdependence of ECE countries, the economic and foreign trade reforms being introduced in the Central and Eastern European States and the development of the subregional integration process make it necessary to undertake periodic exchanges of information on trade trends, policies and problems and on changing forms of economic cooperation (such as joint ventures, promotion of foreign investment, privatization, training) in the

region. The transition process of Central and Eastern European countries to market economies requires radical changes in their foreign trade systems and patterns. Member countries that are developing from the economic point of view encounter special trade difficulties and are not as well equipped as other countries of the region to solve them.

32.51 The development and exchange of transparent market information and experience, including marketing, investment, privatization, financing techniques and improved business contacts, constitute important means for promoting intraregional trade.

32.52 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the area of trade facilitation: to reach and accelerate agreements on basic international standards for the facilitation of interchange of trade data and messages principally by means of electronic data interchange; and to develop, monitor and promote UN/EDIFACT, including an interregional project on cooperation in this area within the framework of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures;

(b) In the area of trade policy: to assist the European countries in transition to a market economy to elaborate measures aimed at creating favourable conditions for intraregional trade expansion and structural diversification;

(c) In the area of trade promotion: to create favourable conditions for industrial cooperation between countries in the ECE region; to promote conditions for a greater participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in intraregional trade.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.53 In the area of facilitation of international trade procedures, new recommendations will be prepared for adoption; UN/EDIFACT will continue to be developed, monitored and promoted and its directories will be updated and disseminated regularly; Trade Facilitation News will continue to be issued. An interregional cooperation project in the area of trade facilitation will be implemented, including development of the training component of the project applicable to ECE economies in transition as well as to other ECE member countries where international facilitation of trade procedures is still at an early stage.

32.54 The secretariat will undertake periodic reviews and analyses of regional and interregional trade trends and issues and continue to publish new studies on changes in trade policies, development finance, foreign investment, privatization, compensation trade and trade in services, in cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations. Particular attention will be paid to specific problems encountered by small and medium-sized enterprises, member countries in transition and those which are developing from the economic point of view. The secretariat will also contribute to the preparation of seminars and workshops on these subjects.

32.55 The secretariat will continue the dissemination of materials of assistance to Governments and to business circles. Surveys and studies will

be undertaken on new forms of investment ventures and industrial cooperation. The quarterly bulletin entitled East-West Joint Ventures and Investment News will continue to be published. New guides on contract practices in international commercial transactions will be elaborated.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

32.56 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/228, 40/178, 42/186, 44/77, 44/169, 44/210, 44/211 and 46/145; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/91, 1989/93, 1989/105 and 1989/114; and ECE decisions D (45), O (45), P (45), A (46) and B (46).

32.57 ECE regards economic analysis as an area of priority within its mandate, as an instrument for strengthening economic relations and multilateral cooperation between countries of the ECE region and with other regions of the world.

32.58 The subprogramme addresses issues of socio-economic development with long gestation periods, requiring a coherent macroeconomic framework for groups of countries and the region as a whole. During the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, the region will continue to experience profound changes. Several countries, previously grouped as centrally planned economies, will proceed with their transition to a market economy, implying further alteration of their economic, social and political systems. In doing so, they will have to address tremendous internal and external imbalances accumulated over decades and to initiate the process of comprehensive institutional, technical and economic reconstruction. Changes in these countries have significant implications for other countries in the region and for global economic and political developments at large. Other countries will proceed with their domestic adjustment policies, while economic integration in the region will enter a new era, with a significant impact on countries in and outside of the region. The complexity of national problems and the growing interdependence of the economies of the region make international cooperation in designing and implementing national economic policies more important than ever.

32.59 In matters concerning population (including its social aspects) the issues include an upsurge in unemployment in the countries in transition coupled with high and rising long-term unemployment in the developed market economies; the ageing of the population and its implications for pension schemes and health insurance; and a wide range of questions related to the economic role of women in the region. As a consequence of the recent and continuing changes in Central and Eastern Europe, the problem of international migration is likely to become more acute.

32.60 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the process of economic reform and the integration of the economies in transition within the European and global economy by paying special attention to the interests of member countries that are developing from an economic point of view and by increasing the observation, the identification and the analysis of the process of development of economies in Central and Eastern Europe;

(b) To provide member Governments with international perspectives on current economic and demographic issues so that they have a broader framework in which to approach national and international problems;

(c) To promote an integrated approach by members of the Commission to demographic and related socio-economic policies and programmes of national and international relevance and concern.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.61 In order to achieve the above objectives, the secretariat will systematically monitor and analyse current economic developments in the region, with emphasis on those in the countries in transition, the process of economic integration in the region and the process of economic transformation in Central and Eastern Europe. The secretariat will provide the Commission and its subsidiary bodies with background analysis of these developments. In reviewing the progress in overcoming the problems of the transition to a market economy in the Central and Eastern European countries, the secretariat will indicate, whenever possible, potential problems encountered. The secretariat will work in close cooperation with EEC and with other international institutions dealing with similar issues of economic research and analysis, including IMF, IBRD, EBRD, GATT and, in particular, OECD, in order to avoid duplication of effort and respectively to capitalize on those areas in which each organization has special competence.

32.62 The secretariat will continue its work on demographic trends, population structure and the integration of population factors into economic analysis and policies.

32.63 The secretariat will attach particular importance to the dissemination of the results of its analysis in its regular and occasional publications and also, whenever possible, by means of such practical activities as round tables, conferences, seminars and workshops. In addition, attempts will be made to expand the secretariat's databases and to improve access to them for member countries and international organizations.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. ENERGY

(a) Objectives

32.64 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 45/209; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/6 and 1991/86; and ECE decisions 0 (45), P (45), A (46) and E (46).

32.65 The period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan is expected to be dominated by conflicting developments in the field of energy. While for most of the time-span and for most market economies of the ECE region energy is expected to be in ample supply, longer-term problems of oil substitution, import dependence, rational use of energy and energy conservation, pollution and climate change would gain momentum and require the elaboration of "sustainable" energy policies. For the economies in transition, however, the period 1992-1997 is likely to be dominated by short-term problems of energy supply, nuclear and mine safety, emission control and the introduction of market-oriented energy policies and instruments.

32.66 These perspectives will shape energy cooperation within ECE during 1992-1997. Its structure should change in favour of issues such as sustainable energy strategies; assistance to economies in transition; energy efficiency; clean coal technologies; world coal and gas trade potentialities; energy security, interconnection of the East and West European gas, oil and electricity networks; management training; technical assistance and mine safety.

32.67 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote exchanges of views and experience on selected issues of common interest (including technology transfer and internationalization of environmental costs); to formulate general recommendations on issues such as the rational use of energy, including energy-efficient standards and labelling systems, emission control, new sources of energy, sustainable development, cooperative research of trade, development and dissemination of renewables, harmonization of efficiency standards, and incorporation of environmental costs in energy prices;

(b) To promote implementation of such specific projects as "Energy Efficiency 2000" and the interregional project "Global Energy Efficiency 21" based on the experience of "Energy Efficiency 2000";

(c) To ensure that the programme of cooperation in the energy sector responds to changing policy needs and opportunities;

(d) To capitalize on complementarities and avoid duplication of activities by reviewing related activities of other entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations;

(e) To develop or update international classifications, statistics, balances, projections, databases and terminologies necessary for the implementation of the programme, and disseminate that information to ECE member States and other interested parties.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.68 Apart from servicing the meetings and seminars approved by the Committee on Energy, the secretariat will keep abreast of energy development and related national policies; analyse trends and developments in the energy sector in the region, with particular emphasis on economies in transition, demand, efficiency, sustainability and environmental impact of energy use and energy security. The related findings and recommendations will be disseminated to the members of the Commission and published as appropriate.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

32.69 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 42/186 and ECE decisions O (45), P (45), A (46), B (46) and E (46).

32.70 Profound economic and technological changes have occurred in recent

years in the steel, chemical and engineering industries, as well as in automation, which will continue to affect these industrial sectors - possibly even at an accelerated rate - during the next decade. Problems related to the supply of raw materials, technological developments, quality requirements, energy constraints, protection of the environment, trade and competition will persist. The importance attached by Governments to making sustainable development the guiding principle in the interrelated objectives of economic growth, environmental protection and sound development within the region will have a significant impact on the way in which priorities are set in the study and solution of underlying problems affecting those industrial sectors. There is also a need for considerable restructuring of state-owned industrial enterprises in those industrial sectors so that they could operate effectively under market-economy conditions and become integrated within the global economy. There will be a need for further structural adjustments as a result of intensified cooperation among countries at the subregional level and the emergence of increased production capacities in the newly industrialized countries.

32.71 In the area of standardization and related activities, the current process of development and harmonization of standards and conformity assessment procedures in the region, especially with respect to regulated products, requires further attention. Its possible detraction from the policy of global acceptance of international standards and systems for conformity assessment can become a major non-tariff barrier to international trade.

32.72 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate cooperation in the ECE region in the industrial sectors pertaining to the steel, chemical and engineering industries and automation and the process of reform in those sectors in the economies in transition, and to provide a framework within which the member countries can exchange information and experience;

(b) To create conditions under which ECE members can develop a unified strategy for further diversification of the industry structure in order to enhance the economic and technological development in that sector in specific subregions;

(c) To promote international agreements and instruments on standardization policies and procedures in the region in order to ensure the conformity of the standardization process to global policies and trends in that field.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.73 In line with those objectives, the ECE secretariat will undertake research and analysis of conditions and trends in the industrial sector of the region and will disseminate the findings among the members of ECE with a view to elaborating the future industrial development strategy in the region. In that context, the secretariat will prepare and publish (a) annual reviews on current developments and prospects, including international trade in the steel, chemical and engineering industries, as well as in automation; (b) biennial updates on steel scrap statistics; and (c) five-year periodic surveys of developments affecting the chemical industry and the engineering

industries and automation, with special attention to the environmental and energy aspects of the production process in steel, chemicals and engineering, and statistics for sectors of the engineering industry that are of commercial importance. Studies will be undertaken on steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap; on the problems arising from the methods for the preparation of scrap as well as improvements that can be brought to all scrap that uses these methods; on market trends and international trade in the above-mentioned sectors; and on selected economic, technological, environmental and resource issues. Work on the elaboration and dissemination of relevant statistics will continue.

32.74 In the area of standardization and related activities, the harmonization of standards and technical regulations with a view to facilitating trade and transport within the region will receive particular attention. Recommendations aimed at the promotion of international agreements and other appropriate arrangements on the acceptance of certificates of conformity with standards and technical regulations will be adopted.

32.75 Seminars and study tours will be organized on selected issues of specific interest to countries of the region. In order to facilitate the process of reform in the economies in transition, the secretariat will also play an active role in the preparation of workshops, symposia and other similar informal forums, in particular to address transition issues.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) Objectives

32.76 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 44/14 and 44/236; Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/99; and ECE decisions O (45), P (45), A (46), B (46) and E (46).

32.77 Science and technology are recognized as being increasingly important factors in economic development. The processes whereby research and innovation take place and their impact on economic development, industrial infrastructure, productivity and investment patterns call for further analysis based on exchange of information and experience among national policy makers. The escalating costs of research and development and the increasingly limited availability of resources, coupled with the rapid pace and complexity of technological innovations, make it desirable for Governments to cooperate more closely in identifying new forms and directions of international scientific and technological cooperation, and in analysing and exchanging experience on emerging science and technology issues having a multidisciplinary character. So far, considerable differences exist among ECE countries with respect to the developments taking place in science and technology and in their respective systems of economic management, approaches to planning and business practices.

32.78 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide a forum for the exchange of experience between member Governments in the formulation and/or implementation of science and technology policy; the formulation of proposals aimed at the promotion of international cooperation in the field of science and technology policy; the improvement and coordination of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in

the field of science and technology; and the coordination of the activities of the Commission with other international or intergovernmental organizations dealing with the problems of scientific and technological cooperation;

(b) To provide conditions and avenues for studying selected issues in science and technology, and to review changes in national science and technology policies and institutions.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.79 In the light of those objectives, the ECE secretariat will:

(a) Review major developments and changes in national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions, including quadrennial reviews of changes in overall national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions;

(b) Maintain an inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology;

(c) Disseminate information on selected issues in science and technology and assist the process of reform in the economies in transition, in particular by contributing to the preparation of periodic seminars, workshops, symposia and other similar informal forums.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

(a) Objectives

32.80 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 44/212; Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/90; and ECE decisions O (45), P (45) and A (46).

32.81 With their increasing integration into the national economy, the agricultural and timber sectors, traditionally labour-intensive, are in constant need of adaptation so as to remain competitive with other sectors in attracting investment and other resources. The introduction of new technologies and the adjustment of existing ones are to be viewed against a complex background of internal and external impacts, interrelationships and consequences. The 1990s are likely to witness an intensification of the pace of change affecting agriculture and the forest products sector, which will arise from developments notably in Central and Eastern Europe, environmental protection, regional integration, international trade, social conditions and technology.

32.82 In that context, the Committee on Agriculture of ECE has adopted a programme of work for 1992-1996 based on the provisions and priorities set out in decision O (45) and on an understanding of cooperation and division of responsibilities in the field of food and agriculture between ECE and FAO. Likewise, the ECE Timber Committee has adopted its programme of work on the basis of decision O (45) for the same period, many elements of which are carried out jointly with FAO and some with ILO.

32.83 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the field of agriculture: to assist member States of ECE, in particular countries in transition, by providing economic assessments of the agri-food sector, including farm management; reviewing agricultural commodity markets and international trade; identifying means for improving the relationship between agriculture, environmental protection and sustainable development; promoting international standards for perishable produce and other agricultural products to facilitate their trade and distribution; and developing statistics relating to food and agriculture;

(b) In the field of timber: to assist member States of ECE, in particular the countries in transition, by providing short-, medium- and long-term economic analysis of the forest and forest products sector, including international trade; assessing the sustainability of the forest resource and the threats from damaging agents, including air pollution and fire; the capacity of the forest sector to provide wood products and environmental and other services on a sustainable basis; and developing statistics relating to the forest and forest products sector.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.84 In the light of those objectives, the secretariat will undertake research and provide analytical and other services to member Governments of ECE on the food, agricultural and timber sectors in respect of the following areas: environmental aspects and sustainable development, markets, standards, trade facilitation and statistics, as a basis for policy formulation and entrepreneurial decision-making. For timber, similar activities will be undertaken, with particular emphasis on the medium- and long-term aspects and the sustainability of the resource base of that sector.

32.85 In that context, the secretariat of the ECE will continue to assist:

(a) The Committee on Agriculture in studying ways and means of keeping abreast of the accelerating changes in the agriculture sector, notably the relationship between agriculture and the environment, and the economics of the agri-food sector and farm management;

(b) The Timber Committee in carrying out activities aimed at better conservation and protection of the forest environment and at the sustainable use of forest resources, and the goods and services they provide.

32.86 In line with those responsibilities, the secretariat will also play an active role in the preparation of symposia, workshops and other informal forums for the members of the Commission and continue to produce publications and disseminate information on agricultural and timber matters among the ECE members and other interested parties, including other intergovernmental and international organizations.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) Objectives

32.87 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 44/173; and ECE decisions O (45), P (45) and A (46).

32.88 The components of human settlements, land-use, shelter, infrastructure, energy, water and services, should be planned and managed in a sustainable way. There is a need to improve housing conditions and areas, modernize existing buildings and revitalize urban centres and neighbourhoods throughout the region. Better links between planning for human settlements, environment and traffic planning should be established, including the introduction of new environmental principles to human settlements planning and policy. Human settlements should provide the framework for the conservation and recycling of non-renewable sources. Energy conservation in the construction and use of buildings will continue to be an important objective.

32.89 In countries in transition, continuation of reformulation of their housing, land-use and building policies and legislations to market approaches is required. Three aspects of housing provision are of special importance for those countries: financial arrangements, land management and promotional activity.

32.90 Social and demographic changes and the ageing of the population in most ECE countries will require further attention to develop appropriate housing, social and service policies and standards.

32.91 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote housing, land-use and building policies with a view to environmental and economic soundness and sustainable development of human settlements;

(b) To provide a forum for an extensive exchange of experience on human settlements problems, national objectives and policies, and to promote international statistics in the field;

(c) To assist countries in economic and social transition in the reformulation of their housing, land-use and building policies to market economy approaches.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

32.92 In order to achieve those objectives, the ECE secretariat will analyse and distribute information on current trends and policies in human settlements fields, cooperate with country experts in the preparation of discussion papers and summary reports, and play an active role in the preparation of seminars and workshops. It will continue to service regular meetings of relevant bodies. It will cooperate with and consult other international organizations to avoid duplication of efforts. The secretariat will also continue to produce publications on selected topics of specific interest to the member countries, and will assist the Committee on Human Settlements in the formulation of regional policies and strategies in the field of human settlements.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 33)
24 April 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 33. Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the relevant parts of the narrative of programme 33, Regional cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean reviewed the revisions during its last session held at Santiago from 8 to 15 April 1992.

---

* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

92-18172 3020c (E) 290492 300492

/...

4. The following text modifies paragraphs 33.65 and 33.69 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 9. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Paragraph 33.65 — Add a reference to General Assembly resolutions 44/141 and 44/142 and ECLAC resolution 515 (XXIII).

Paragraph 33.69 — Insert a new paragraph 33.69 as follows and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"In the context of the enormous magnitude attained by drug abuse and the production and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the countries of the region, as well as the increasing economic impact of the above-mentioned activities in these countries, there is an urgent need to increase the awareness of Governments of the magnitude of the problem and to assist them in the creation of programmes aimed at preventing and reducing the reproduction, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and remedying the economic impact by the promotion of alternative development programmes."

Paragraph 33.69 (new para. 33.70) — Add subparagraph 33.70 (f) as follows:

"Research and analysis of the economic and social impact of the drug production, trafficking and consumption and formulations of alternative development programmes to remedy this impact; provision of technical assistance in the formulation of national policies to prevent and reduce the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances."